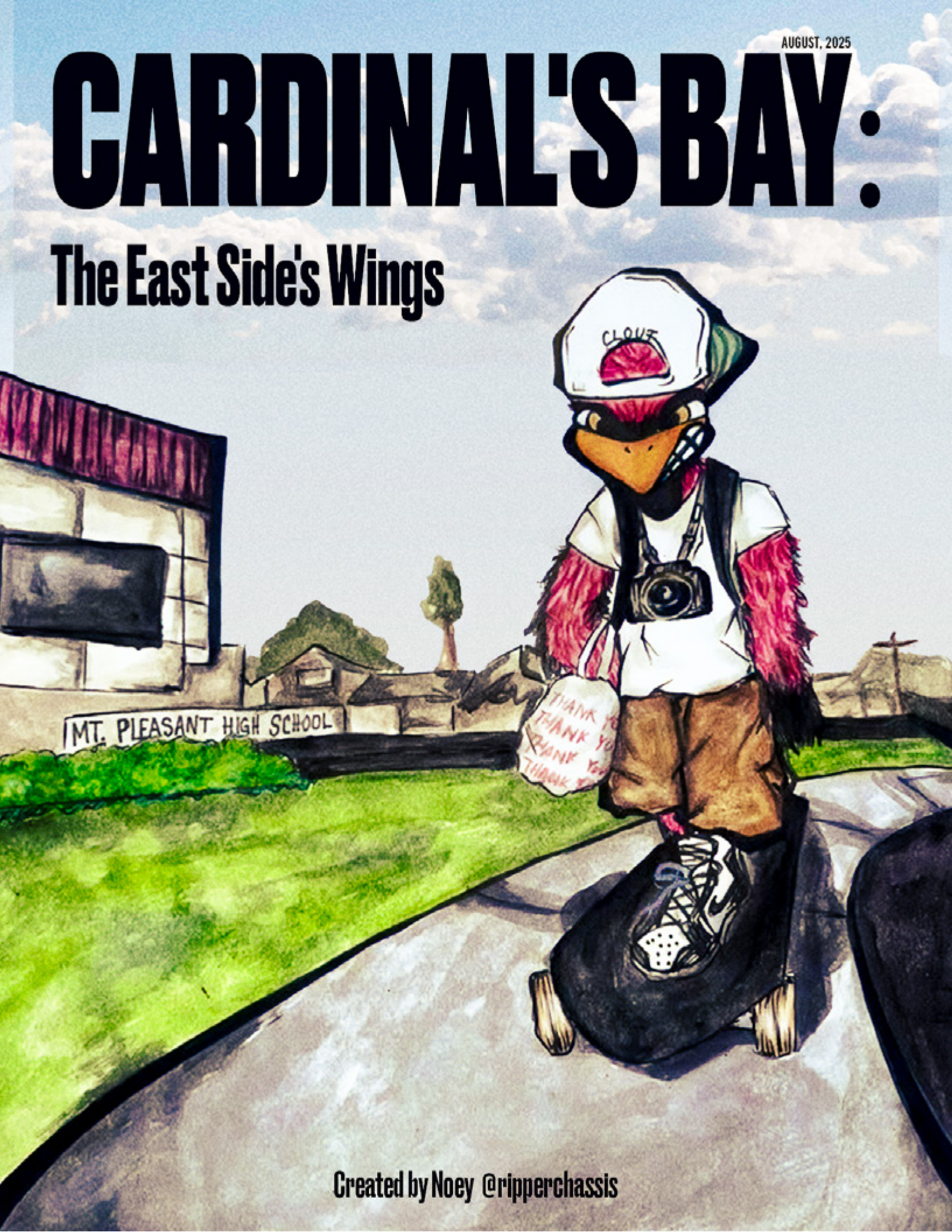
AUGUST, 2025

CARDINAL'S BAY:

The East Side's Wings



Created by Noey @ripperchassis

I started cruising around neighborhoods, taking photographs for my initial plan, The SAN JOSE TRIP *magazine.*

Mt Pleasant *was gonna be a small section that featured the* Food Fest *and some individuals, but I ended up taking so many for friends and events that I* had *to use them for something...*

Then during one sleepless camping trip, I came up with the solution:

The CARDINAL'S BAY: The East Side's Wings *free digital magazine.*

—Noey

Address: DAY ONE BARBER SHOP
700 S Winchester Blvd STE 30,
San Jose, CA 95128
USA
Phone: 1-408-597-7112
E-mail: RIPPERCHASSIS@GMAIL.COM
Online: WWW.RIPPERCHASSIS.COM

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PRODUCTION: NOEY

CARDINAL'S BAY:
The East Side's Wings

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August 2025

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+ Events +

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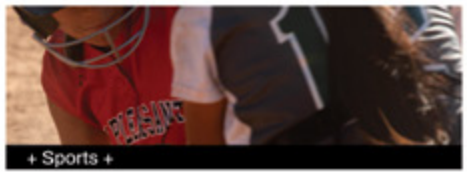
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CONTRIBUTORS:
Photos: Alex, Angel, Mr. Caces, Lulu, Mikanie, Melanie, lonesaint.ttt, Mr. Wou, and MP Yearbook; Support: Denver R., Ms. Henry, Mr. Cavada, Ms. Sisco; TOC: Cult of Beauty; Openclipart.org

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10
SKEE BALL

ART
animation

Preparing every student
to thrive in a global society.
East Side Union
High School District
Board of Trustees
EAST SIDE
THANK YOU! YOUR BOND DOLLARS AT WORK

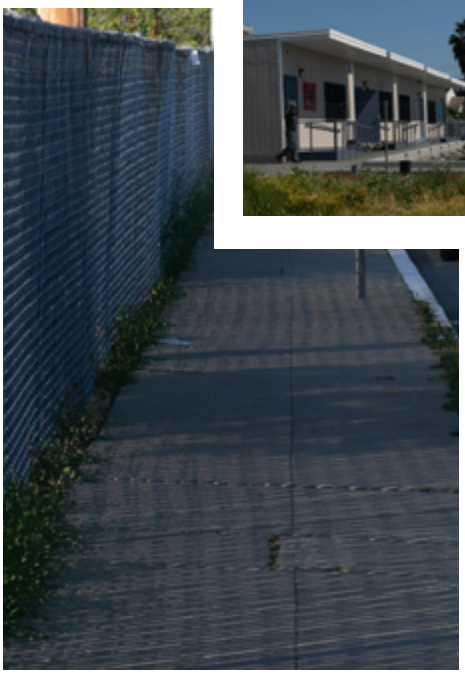
CAMPUS LIFE

NO PARKING

Preparing every student
to thrive in a global society
Welcome
Junk
Removal
408 630 6947
MT. PLEAS
IGH SCHOOL

Bicycle and electric scooter parking

MT.Pleasant H.S.Parking ONLY
Not a pick-up or drop-off zone



CELEBRATE ALL YOU'VE ACHIEVED

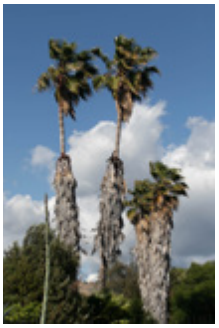
GRAD PORTRAIT SESSIONS ARE COMING

DATE: TIME: LOCATION:

Make Sure All Portaits Are Taken BEFORE January 17th!!

Prestige

MT PLEASANT



CLASS
OF
2024

JCB

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Learn To:

📸 Use cameras

💻 Edit in photoshop and video softwares

✍️ Write stories

✏️ Create posters, films, t-shirts, buttons, and more!

Build your career as a:

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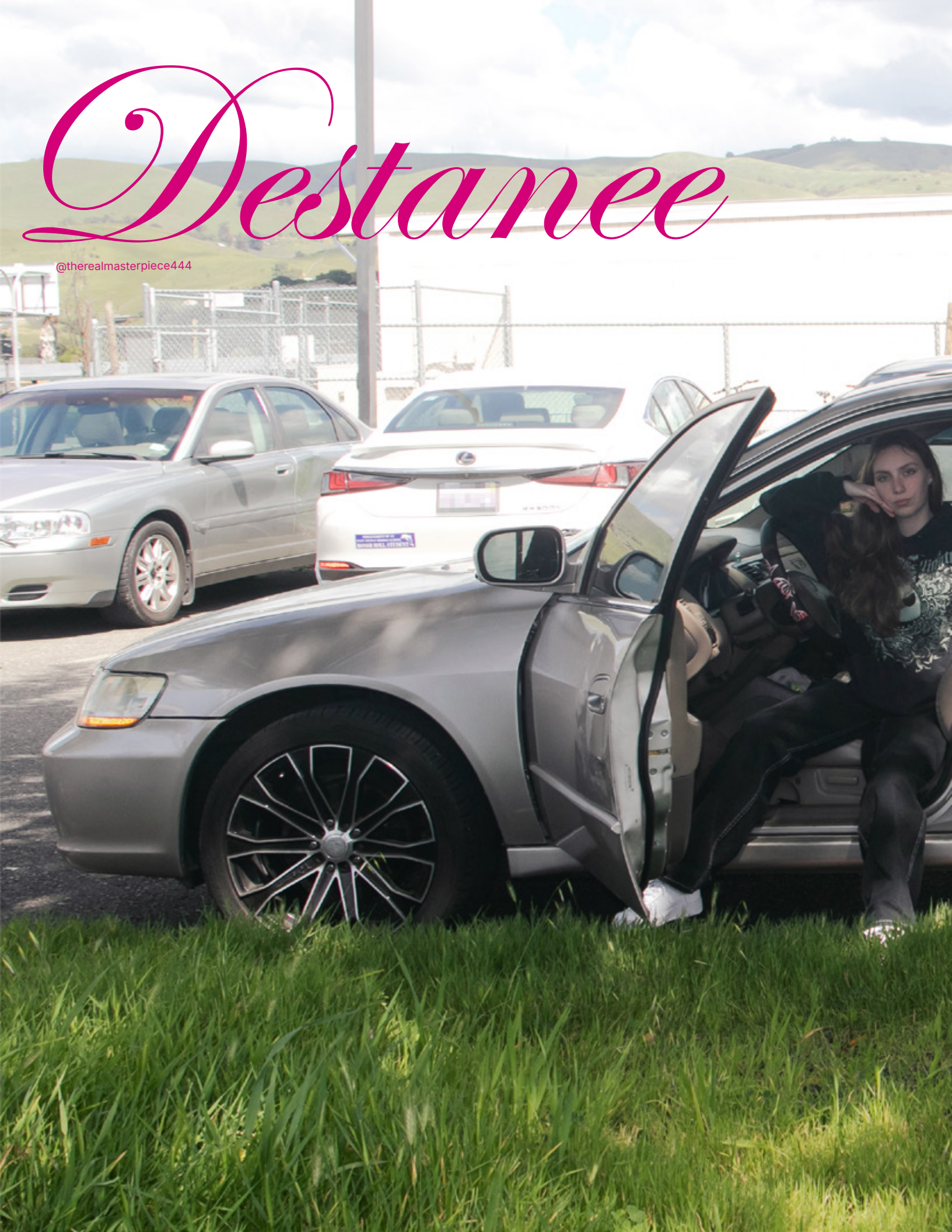
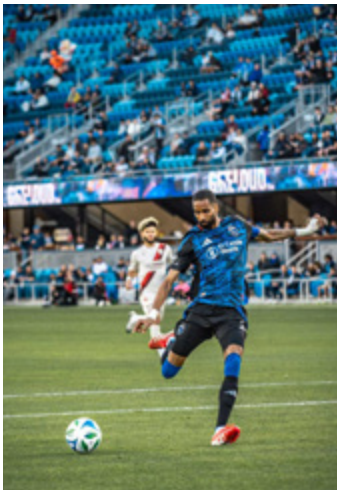
- Graphic Designer
- Videographer
- Video Editor
- Game Designer

CHOOSE

*THE **MULTIMEDIA ELECTIVE!!***


Destanee
@therealmasterpiece444



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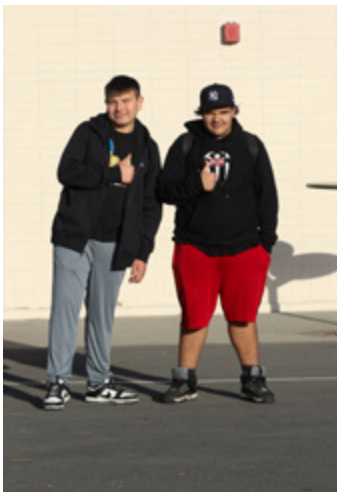
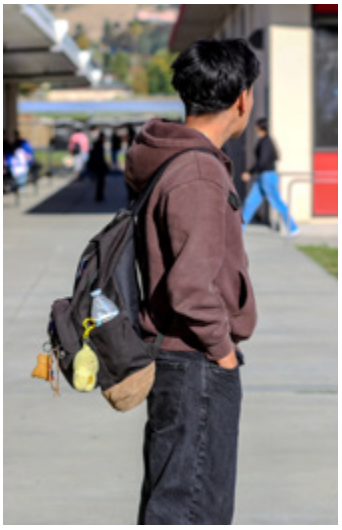
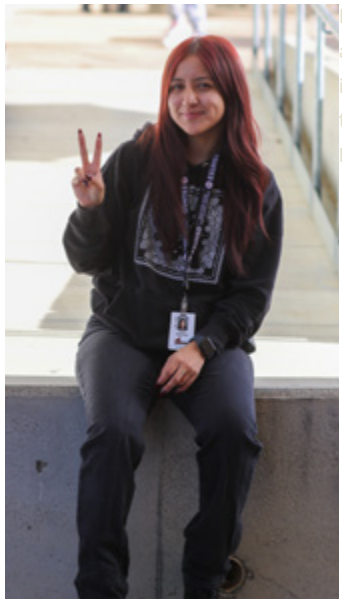
SWAY_FLICKS

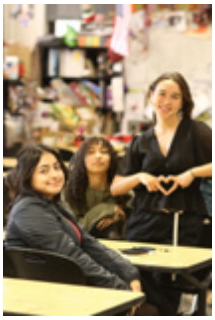
"I love that my car's an older model and it has low miles on it and it would last me another lifetime. It has a lot of sentimental value to me because it went through some of my older aunts before it became my car. I love working on it when I'm bored, and I want to end up making it 100 times cooler then it already is."

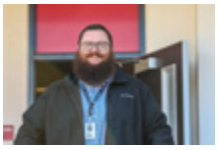
~Destanee @therealmasterpiece444











AYO!!!

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from

ANSOR: My name is Ansor and I'm from Kyrgyzstan.

N: What's your idea about Mt Pleasant?

ANSOR: Whenever I think of this school, I usually thi
of two sides as well as a spectrum between them. We
have one side, which are usually what you will see
publicly as you walk around school. Especially during
rallies, you'll see most people that are on the ground
participating in the games, spiritual people. The ordi-
nary people you see in life. And then there's the other
side, during lunch or brunch, you see them wearing
saggy pants. And you don't see them do anything bad
unless you're talking about the school bathrooms—I
always see them smoking. But I feel like it's a spectru
between these two people, and I consider the other s
to be closer to delinquents. They're more hidden. You
always safe in this school, unless you're looking to st
a fight.

**N: Do you think that the two types of people are sep
rate?**

ANSOR: They're not separate. It's a spectrum, a rang
between them. And usually I'd say that the reason wh
this would be true is all teenagers want to do things th
way, not all of them, but definitely most of them. I also
have the same thing. I always want to do things in my
way. And because of that, the high school is very dive
sified. Sometimes I still am failing a math class, but I'm
good at math. I am smart, but I spend my time playing
video games. The reason why is because teenagers l
to do things their way. They wanna do things that they
think is right for them sometimes, especially, let's say
some people, they're into playing video games. Mayb
in the next years later or so, they're gonna be into cars
Think about toys. As a child, you used to play with toy
but do you like them now?

**N: Oh, no, definitely not. Well, maybe if it's like a ba
you know, like I'll kick it around.**

ANSOR: But it's not like you play like house or some-
thing. You don't play with a dollars anymore. It forms.
This range of people has to do with how one side und
stands that studying should be the higher priority, and
it'll help you in the long term with money and a job.
And you can use this to get more of what you actually
need in the future. So right now, you wanna play video
games. Once you get the money, you'll want to buy
cars. The other side falls into what they actually want
do.

N: Whatever you put your time into represents who you are at Mt Pleasant, in life. So what are your own priorities now that you're in your sophomore year?

ANSOR: You ever heard of sophomore slump? It's basically when your first year you do amazing, but then the second year it just goes downhill quickly. It's like when you lose kill right after a really good game that you did. And right now that's where I'm going. I'm getting lower grades in my classes than usual, but I am planning to climb back up again. I think I shouldn't have overworked myself with freshman year. I wanted to become a valedictorian. But I guess, you know, it's okay not to be one. Probably better, especially, um, since I found a new video game that's fun to play that also made me more accustomed to the sophomore slump. Because every time I find the new video game, I go from a really good study of workaholic to a video gameaholic, a gamer.

N: How are the rest of your classmates are affected by sophomore slump?

ANSOR: Some of my classmates are affected by this. One of my classmates made a note on Instagram, "Sophomore Slump" with sobbing emojis. The thing is, I don't know what the other students think and what their grades are. Technically, I, you know, you don't know what my grades are either. I never told you my grades. You appear to have all A's, but is that true? Because of this actually don't know how many people are experiencing sophomore slump but there's definitely other terms that people may fall into such as senioritous.

N: Yeah, that was me during the first semester. I didn't plan on going to college.

ANSOR: Taking a vacation when you're not supposed to?

N: You know, I did. I did many times, but I spending that time with my family. This is a priority that's separate from school. I got priorities for my education, I got priorities for my family, so it's up to what the individual decides to put time into. And when you think about the smokers, the kids sagging their pants, do you think they don't have the right priorities?

ANSOR: I think they just don't have the right priorities. They prioritize what they want over what they need. So right now, I wanna go and eat some ice cream. I'll eat ice cream, but this happens every day I wanna eat ice cream. Eventually, I'll become fat or get diabetes. But I don't really look at the future. So I'm like, okay, I want ice cream. I get ice cream.

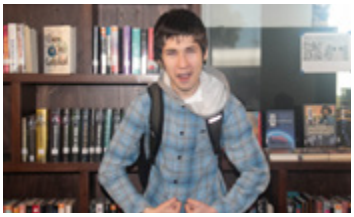
N: But at the same time, you also say that for your sophomore slump, you don't know how the other students are doing. So isn't it the same for others? They don't know how we feel?

ANSOR: They probably don't know how we feel either. That's why a lot of people are saying that whenever someone is feeling sad, you always say you are not alone. And the reason why people emphasize on saying this is because the other person who is sad doesn't actually know what other people are experiencing. I don't know what actually happens during your family. All I know is that you always spend time with your family from what I hear, but I don't know if it's true or not. And the people I see around me, I see them walking. You can make a quick assumption, especially if you look at a happy person walking on the street, that their life is fulfilled and they feel satisfied. But do you know this? No.

N: That makes me think about my older cuz. He does what he does. But I'm family, I'm part of his circle. I'll never experience that with the other kids. My opinion of them is based off how they treat me and other people—often, the loudest are the most disrespectful. So what's the best approach to talking to someone that you can't respect because of their actions. What would you do?

ANSOR: I probably wouldn't do anything. I would look at them and still think, oh, that guy, he looks like trouble. And then I just go on with my life. In truth, I think I'd probably best worry about myself, especially if you wanna hang out with the right people. You wanna surround yourself with study groups, which is better, really. The friends that surround you affect who you are.

If you're around a supportive neighborhood and community, you'd also be a person who fits in, right? You'd wanna fit in. And once you fit in, you'll be focusing on the same priorities as them. Compare that to hanging out with people who would probably offer you a smoke. Even if you say no, the scent is still on you. ■



Alex (right)

Omar (hand)

Alex (center)

Ngoc-Hung "JD" Do

Senior Drama Crew

Isaac (left)

Alexis Pimentel, Associate Principal

MT. PLEASANT H.S.
408-937-2820

NICK & KRISTINA

EVENTS

**NOEY: W
from?**

NICK: I a
Californi

KRISTIN

**N: From
Mt Pleas**

NICK: Th
and the t
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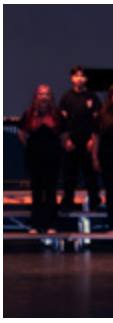
there; it f

KRISTIN
club bec
I know th
sphere a
my friend

**N: On ev
drama w
The last
the stag**



NICK: Th

**N: So wh
between
ment be**

What're your names and where are you both

am Nick Caffrey, I am from San Jose,
a.

NA: I'm Kristina, I'm from San Jose, California.

all of the clubs and after school activities at sant, which are you most involved in?

ne drama club. I have a lot more bonds there, teacher, Mr. Goulart was very nice and wel—especially the higher ups there: the presi- publicity, vice President. I really like being felt very welcoming

NA: The most important club to me is the band cause I have a bunch of friends in there, and ne teacher very well. It's an amazing atmo- and environment. It's also fun to play with all ds.

very play and concert I've seen, band and were working together on the performances. concert had a spider man slinging through e.

here was the Adam's Family.

hat's the process like with collaborating band and drama? And what's the involve- tween the both of you?

NICK: It's a lot of work. It's getting everyone's schedules to align with the schedule they have in band and drama, but it always turns out really well. I'm glad I got to spend time with a lot of people.

KRISTINA: The concerts are amazing. I've also taken part in also a play *Jacqueline Hyde* and that was really good too. During the *Pops Concert*, we had this amazing little theatrical experience where some of the drama members came in, and this year we had the Mt Pleasant band and choir play at the *Pops Concert* too.

NICK: It's always nice to have the band and the drama work together, because it's not just music happening, it's also different movies on stage with acting going on. They're amazing shows because we have both of those.

N: Since you're introduced with both people from the band and the drama side, how did that improve your bond with both of the clubs?

NICK: Being a part of that club really boosted my mood. It makes me wanna stay at school because it's so fun, and I made a lot of friends there. It was overall great experience; I recommend to try drama as soon as possible. Being part of these clubs, it just, it makes you wanna go to school. And it's just an enjoyable experience.

N: Would you want to go to school if the clubs weren't out there?

NICK: I would mainly be here for sports. I do track and water polo, and I got the most valuable player last year for water polo, so...

KRISTINA: Sports would be the only thing making me want to go to school and *learning* also. But if it wasn't for the band and the drama community, it wouldn't be as fun. ■

FOODFEST

PAN DULCE & HOT CHOCOLATE
2 tickets

DONUTS

ENVIRONMENTAL

P.O.G

DEBATE CLUB
3 Tickets
3 Tickets
6 Tickets

ROBOTICS
CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRIES
& CUPCAKES
2 TICKETS EACH !!

Tix
BADMIN-
TON

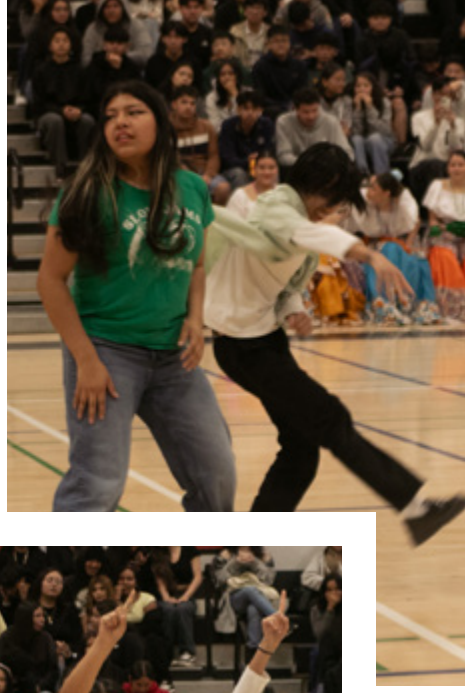
MENTAL

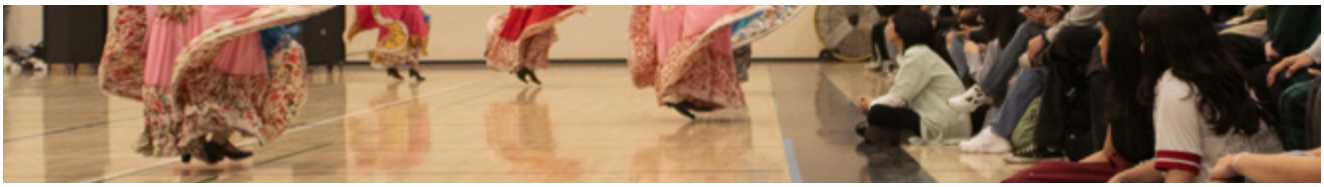
MULTI CULTURAL RALLY

Chinese-Vietnamese
KAC
Folklorico
Polynesian

MHAL
CHAMPIONS
WATER POLO
1977

HOME
GUEST





CHARLIE
TU

“I’d say, why not? I don’t see why I should hold back.”

—Charlie Tu

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

CHARLIE: My name is Charlie. I live in San Jose.

N: How did you start dancing?

CHARLIE: The first time I saw dancing was when I saw Michael Jackson's Moon Walk. And I thought that was really cool and I felt that maybe I can learn how to do that too, so I did learn that. And then I performed and was like, wow, maybe dancing isn't really that bad. It'd be really awesome to learn this.

N: When was this?

CHARLIE: This was like when I was ten or eleven, when I first saw Michael Jackson? And I'm so sad. He died at 2010, because that's when I was born. So I had to see his past.

N: Well, it's hella funny that you were a lilW kid and into Michael Jackson

CHARLIE: Don't judge Michael Jackson, he's cool.

N: So which Michael Jackson song did you first watch?

CHARLIE: Billy Jean is when I first saw him. And then I saw the future generations. So his first one to his latest one, and that's when I was like, dang, I really like his dances. They look really cool. Flashy.

N: Did you join KAC just cause of dancing or because you're into Korean culture?

CHARLIE: Since the first talent show at the end, they told me to start dancing because I got on the leaderboard. And I dance well. KAC offered me and I was like sure why not i mean, it's just dancing, but it's also because I can express myself out there more as a freshman. I feel like that's good, because just being able to put your image out there. Know that you can do this, you could do that, you show that you can have fun. And you don't have to be bounded by your fears. Because before, I used to be afraid of performing in public and performing to a lot of people, but ever since I joined multiple clubs, that makes me perform in front of many and my parents too, I eventually got up the courage. And then I started I started dancing more.

N: What about outside of school? You're very active at the school right now, but would you do anything outside of it, like a group of people or you join a space?

CHARLIE: Going outside, I would naturally like to stay low and keep a low profile, but if something did pop up like an event and I get something for doing it, I'd say, why not? I don't see why I should hold back. It's just that it's quite unnecessary to do it in public. I don't need to be break dancing all of a sudden.

N: Who are the dancers besides Michael Jackson that you look up to?

CHARLIE: Eventually, I started, like, getting inspired by small short dances that would be used in many songs. At the same time, I also got interested in acrobatic dancing, dances with flips and stuff. But I never really tried it because it's acrobatics. I'm not doing that hard concrete. I never had the space in my house to practice it.

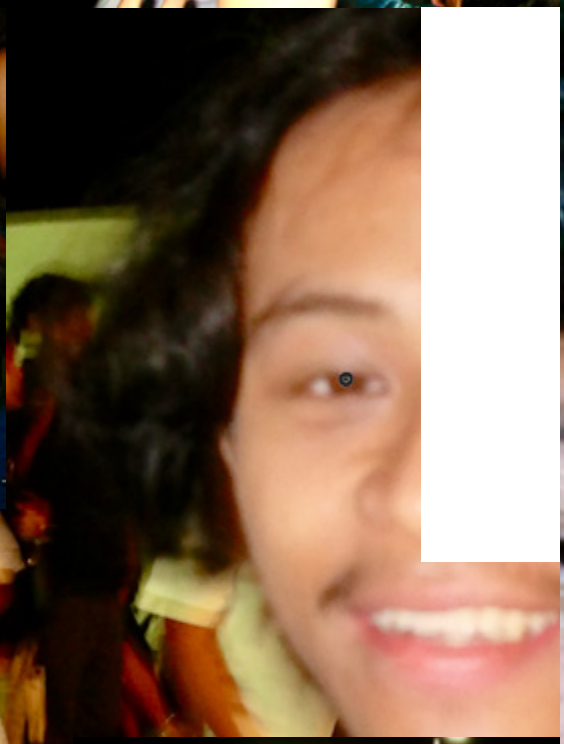
N: I hear kids mention they don't like the Kpop commu-

nity. Has anyone said it straight up, and what would you say to someone who did? You don't seem like you associate with the Korean aspect, but I wanted to hear your thoughts as a club member.

CHARLIE: If anyone said they didn't, of course I respect their opinion, but at least give it try and they would change their mind. It's kind of like food. You see food online, and it looks kind of gross. But in reality, it probably tastes amazing. So before you hate something and never wanna try it, at least take part in something at once related to whatever you're you don't really like. And if you really don't like it, you don't like it.

N: When I first heard about the K-pop dance, I thought about the K pop stars. I see the videos about them online where people hella make fun of the fans. But when I see you guys dancing in the multicultural rally, I see that you are happy at what you're doing. You're not afraid do what you do. And you enjoy dancing. That's the most important thing.

CHARLIE: The main thing about dancing is you need a show that you're having fun. If you're dancing and you look like, oh, I don't wanna do this 😒. Then why you even here? You should be doing something else. If you wanna do something and you enjoy doing it, you gotta make sure you look like you're having fun doing it. It's kind of like our band concerts. We can't just sit there and, have a straight face and say nothing without being energetic. We gotta interact with the audience, be like, "Yeah, you like that? That was good, huh?" That's what you need to do, you need to have fun. ■



CB YELP'S TIP

Homecoming.

Photos by @shotby_sugar

Natalie

ALL
ACCESS
AWARDS
VIP
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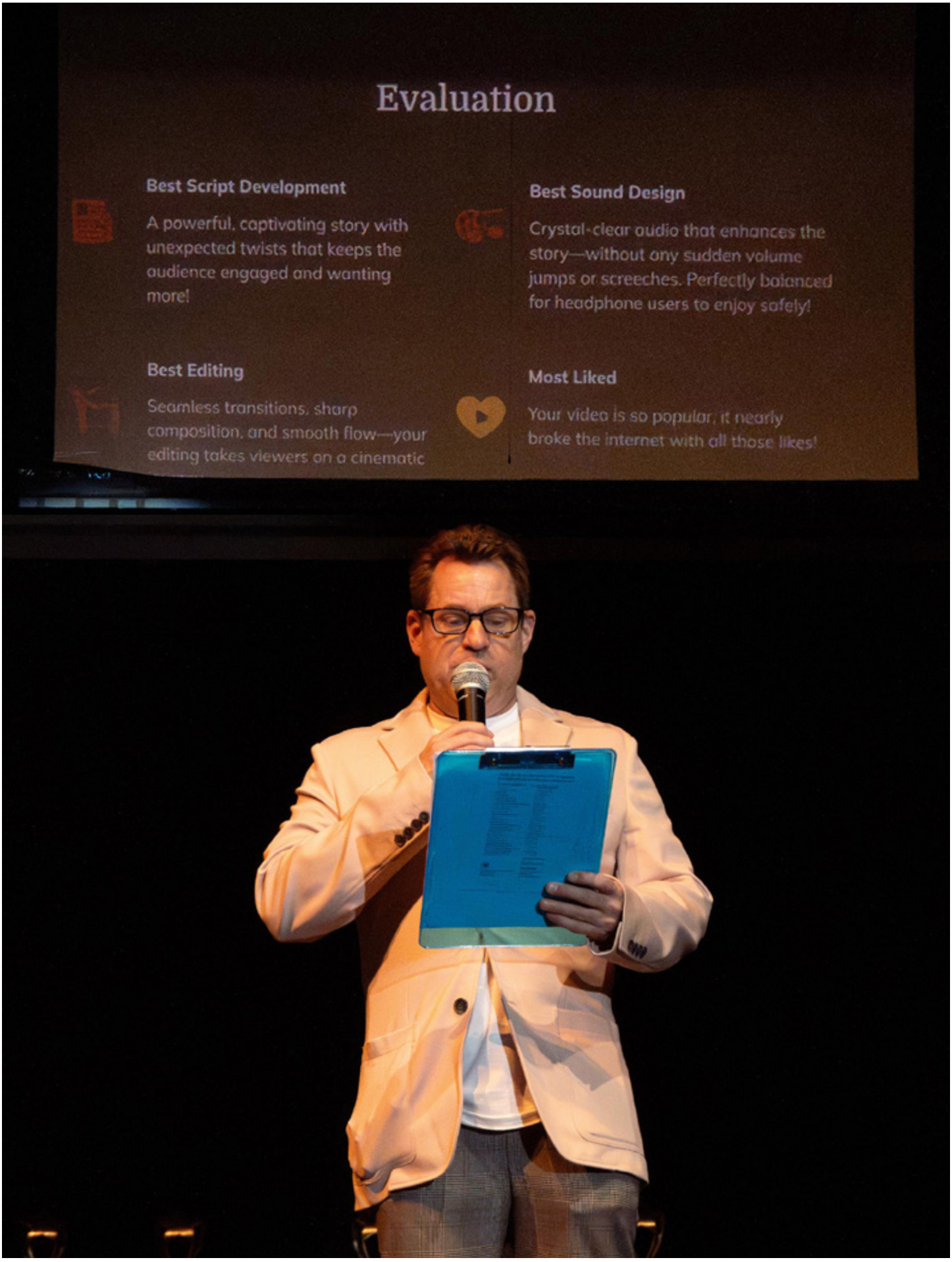
the
pitch

ALL
VIP
ALL
ACCESS

AWARDS NIGHT
VIP
ALL ACCESS


Evaluation
Best Script Development
A powerful, captivating story with unexpected twists that keeps the audience engaged and wanting more!
Best Sound Design
Crystal-clear audio that enhances the story—without any sudden volume jumps or screeches. Perfectly balanced for headphone users to enjoy safely!
Best Editing
Seamless transitions, sharp composition, and smooth flow—your editing takes viewers on a cinematic
Most Liked
Your video is so popular, it nearly broke the internet with all those likes!

Script Development: First place - Yerba Buena Studios,

Second place - BmfG Films

Editing: First place - Angel Island Films,

Second place - Alcatraz Productions

Sound Design: First place - Alcatraz Films,

Second place - Ocean Beach Films

Liked - First place: Alcatraz Films,

Second place: Alcatraz Yerba Buena Studios

Script Development: First place - STEAM Academy,

Second place - Manufactering

Editing: First place - JEK Productions (Ken, Epifiano, & James),

Second place - Multimedia (Omar & Louis)

Sound Design: First place - JEK Productions (Ken, Epifiano, & James),

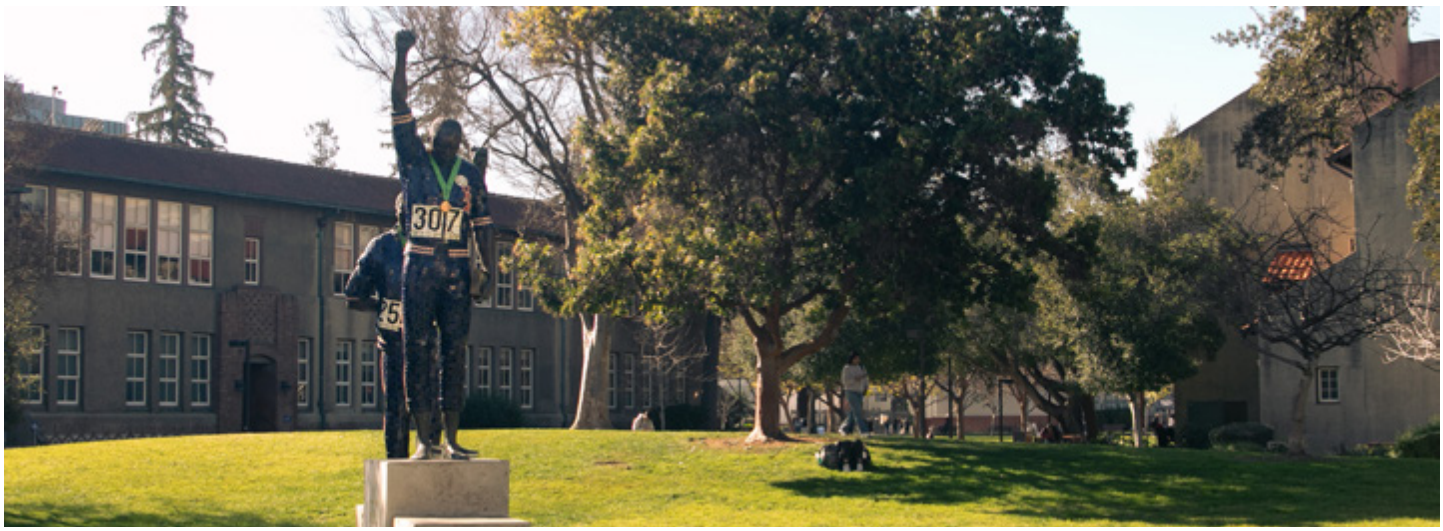
Second place - Multimedia (Omar & Louis)

Alcatraz Productions

Alcatraz Studios

MULTIMEDIA SJSU TRIP

SPARTAN FOOD PANTRY


307

SAN JOSE
Sharks
One oh One

Smoking
Not Permitted
SJSU
RESTROOMS
BOOKSTORE
CAMPUS
TOUR
CHECK-IN

JOHNSON

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

JOHNSON: My name is Thomas Johnson and I grew up Detroit, Michigan.

N: How did you start teaching here?

JOHNSON: It's a long story. I had an art degree from the 80s, 1980s, but I worked as a mechanic for thirty years. Then the shop that I was working for closed, and then I had the art degree. So I went back to school to San Jose State and got my teaching credential. I got hired by Mt Pleasant High School to teach art.

N: What was the art degree for?

JOHNSON: I had a degree in film production from UCSC.

N: How come you got into mechanics afterwards?

JOHNSON: How cute when it's college. I met my wife at college, and we started dating, then we got serious. We got married, and we bought a house. But I wasn't making any money in the film industry. So I got a job as a mechanic, and we paid the bills that way.

N: That's the thing with art degrees, they're hard to implement out in the industry. How has that path turned out for you from being a mechanic to a now a teacher?

JOHNSON: It's worked out really well. In fact, a lot of things I learned as a mechanic that I still use as a teacher. And even in the broader sense, for example, just problem solving. As a mechanic, you can't just walk away from problems. You have to solve the problem. And it's the same thing with teaching on a daily basis. You're presented with things to deal with, and you can't just walk away from it. You have to solve it.

And with art, it's always, yeah, I'm on the computer. I'm trying to figure out what this thing is. It's not loading right or the text is out of the cropping. But that's all we're doing here in the multimedia. We're figuring out the solution to still the story. An art degree helps a mechanic or anybody, really. Again, coming back to solving problems is that you think creatively. And it's for me, teaching students to think creatively doesn't just pay off in the short term with them learning how to use these programs or make projects. Some students, it works directly like you. You are an incredible problem solver. You're an incredibly creative person. And that shows in the process that you went through to look in here to learn. And I see other students that may never use Photoshop or Illustrator. The idea is that they had to solve problems creatively while they were in here. And that's going to pay off later in their lives.

N: What did transitioning from a mechanic to art teacher take out of you?

JOHNSON: Well, for me, that was an incredible journey. And it came at the right time of my life because I had been working as a mechanic for thirty plus years. And to be honest with you, I was getting tired of it. It was hard work. My body was getting old. And when the shop closed down, it was actually kind of a blessing. I was really scared because we didn't have any income, but the journey was to get out there and get my teaching credential. So I was kind of an old guy back among young people, and my mind was now being challenged in new ways. It was fresh and new, and I got back into my art. It was really a wonderful journey to go from that thirty-year grind to a new life in a way. Yeah, It was difficult, it was challenging, but it was also extremely rewarding for me. ■

POP CONCERT

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2007

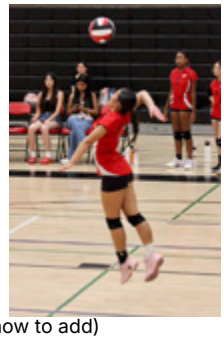
Snow

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

SNOW: My name is Snow DeLeon and I grew up here in East Side San Jose, I've lived here my whole life.

N: During the rallies, I've heard you are the MVP of Girls Basketball. Is basketball the the only sport you play?

SNOW: Actually, I played volleyball all four years as well as basketball and I did track last year just to try it out, you know, be with my friends too. I think it was an okay experience, but I didn't come back my senior year.



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N: Which is the best of them all?

SNOW: It's definitely gonna be basketball, especially because I've been playing it since I was in sixth grade. But I actually didn't like it the first time I played. I was basically forced by my mom to try something else because before basketball. I was a dancer, so I did hip hop, ballet, and stuff like that. But then I started playing basketball in sixth grade. After I got over my, "Oh, I didn't like it phase, I really fell in love with it. Especially because of my dad, he would always play with me because we live right behind little MP and they have courts there. And so we would just go there after dinner and play.

N: What do you love the most about basketball?

SNOW: It's so competitive, and it really matches my personality, or even made my personality because I'm a really competitive person. And I feel like basketball really helps me, I don't know, it just gives me like, so much. How do you say, adrenaline and everything. And it's really fun competing against others. And even though on the court, some people are my enemy, I'm supposed to beat them. After that, our relationship changes, and I get to meet so many new people and really see who they are besides the basketball court.

N: Does this show up for you outside of the basketball with different activities or other clubs?

SNOW: I do Kasama. I dance. But outside of school, I don't know. I just like basketball. I feel like basketball is really a part of my personality.

N: What do you do outside of school when you're not just playing on the court?

SNOW: I actually read a lot of books and I didn't really start reading until the beginning of this year. And so far I've read six books, but I feel like that's something that's new for me, and I read outside of school regularly.

N: Which books do you recommend? Is it from the AP Literature Clas?

SNOW: No, the books I read are not very academic, they're more just like for fun. I just like reading romance books. The one I'm reading right now is *Powerless*, by Lauren Roberts. I don't know if you ever heard about it. It's very popular though. I think it's really good so far. And it's a fantasy kind of thing. And I've never read a fantasy book before, so I feel like it's really good book to get it to.

N: What do you appreciate about the culture at Mt Pleasant?

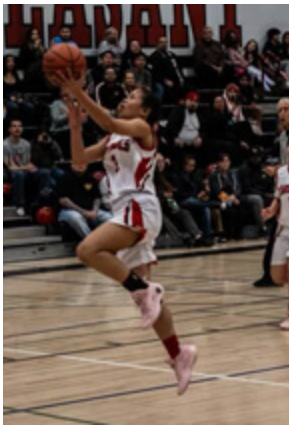
SNOW: One of my favorite things is the teachers. Be-

cause, you know, we're from a title one school, it doesn't have the best reputation. But I feel like the teachers here really put themselves into their work to really motivate their students. They encourage us to do our best take AP classes. And they really help me a lot to earn the best grades that I can.

N: Have your coaches done the same for you?

SNOW: I really love my coaches, especially because they can tie in humor as well as being a coach. And that's my favorite thing, because I love to laugh. I love to joke around. And I feel like they not only push me to be my best on the core, but they also remind me that I'm also a student athlete at the same time to make sure I'm on top of my work in order to play. I've had the same experience with the teachers. They helped me in my freshman and sophomore year. I was lost the whole time. I didn't have any priorities, but they gave me something to pursue and work towards. They put me back on track, so I'm thankful to all my teachers.

Take the opportunities here at Mt Pleasant. Don't care about what other people think, because the fear of looking stupid or not knowing what you're doing can really hold someone back from their true potential. Don't be scared to ask for help, because there's probably the same people that have the same questions that just don't have the courage to say it. And if you're not scared of what other people think, you're doing yourself a favor by putting yourself first, and in turn, you're getting what you need to thrive. ■



@timflashpoint

Qu

uang

Most submissions could not be used in the magazine for continuity purposes, but I made an exception for Quang Ta. He was very easy to talk to in multimedia—*until he switched classes*—and I felt very welcome around his easygoing attitude. He also recommends the Vietnamese restaurant, *Bún Bò Huế An Nam*. I am still eager to try it...*one day*...

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TEACHERS
PHS
JOSE

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

MUSIAL: My name is Mr. Musial. I'm from Pasa Robos, California.

N: Where's Pasa Robos?

MUSIAL: It's in Central California. It's about two and a half hours south of San Jose, near San Luis Obispo, or maybe you've heard of Cal Poly or Pismo Beach

N: Why did you come over here to SJ?

MUSIAL: My ex-wife is from San Jose. My sons were gonna be here—they're currently eight and ten years old, so I wanted to be where my kids were gonna be.

N: What do you teach?

MUSIAL: Psychology, sociology and U.S. history. I'm a history major. So psychology and sociology, I kind of just fell into after Mr. O'Hara left last year. I wouldn't say I'm an expert in psychology or sociology, but it's been fun this year learning about psychology—mainly how the individual mind works—and then sociology about how society works.

N: How has the societal shift of spending more time online afffected us?

MUSIAL: Yeah, I grew up—I'm a millennial. My childhood was in the '90s, mainly without the internet and cell phones being so prevalent. I think it's sad to see how reliant and obsessed we are. Even I know myself that the cell phone is part of my daily life as well. So I guess the psychology of it is that we're just not interacting as much as we used to. We're not as focused—or as you guys say, "locked in"—anymore on learning. Paying attention to when I was a kid, not every classroom had a big screen like we have now. We knew if there was a substitute teacher and there was a TV rolled into the classroom that it was a movie day—we were gonna watch something, and we used to get excited.

Now I feel like if I show my students a movie, they could care less. It used to be a big treat when I was a kid to watch a movie in class. Now I can barely get my students to pay attention to movies. Actually, this week was the first week I started in my US history class taking away phones during movies, so I can make sure they're looking up at the movie rather than at their phone screen. It's sad. We're losing the ability to be kids. I see your generation struggles more with the ability and to talk to each other outside of social media.

N: Are you prioritizing playing outside over the screens for your kids? I ask because my two younger siblings are constantly on the screens, and I don't want them to be sucked up my both my generation and I were.

MUSIAL: I play volleyball at the park sometimes. I have my kids one week and then one week without them. Currently they're playing baseball. and they've got baseball games this weekend. I've kept them in sports—soccer, football, flag football, basketball, baseball—kind of to recreate my childhood in a sense of just playing sports as a kid. When I go play volleyball at the park, they go to the park and play with other kids. But having said that, they're still on the screens. My son likes to watch baseball games on the computer, and my other son is—you know, he's eight years old—and sometimes he's on the YouTube Shorts. So I would say that I do a much better job than most parents not letting them be iPad kids, but they still do have some access to screens. It's pretty normal for this era of people, but for the most part, just trying to get them outside as much as possible, especially with baseball.

N: What should we be doing more as a society?

MUSIAL: For us, it's sports. Even just playing catch, taking them outside on days where we don't have baseball practice and practicing anyways is my way to get them outside as much as possible. They enjoy playing baseball, they enjoy playing catch, they'll play like a little mini imaginary game. And to me, that's very important because too much time on the screen is not good for them at all.

N: What have you seen from our campus?

MUSIAL: I noticed that students are less inclined to play sports, and when we have a campus here where sports aren't as emphasized, there's less school spirit. I think you probably noticed one of our best days this year in particular was the *Seniors VS Staff* basketball game. That was when I felt like our school was most engaged, and it was because it was sports-centered. So I feel like the years where we have better sports teams, or when more kids are involved in sports, the school spirit rises. And it just depends on the year. Last school year, I felt like there

was more school spirit—we had a good girls basketball team, good boys basketball team, a pretty good football team last year. This year, those teams did not have as much success as they moved up to B-league, and you could tell that we suffered a bit because of that.

N: What did people do before throughout history? What kinds of ancient games did they play?

MUSIAL: Yeah, so I don't know what that game was called—the Aztecs used to play it in Mexico with the circle and the ball [ōllamalitzli], and they tried to hit it high. But yeah, you had jousting, you had medieval gladiators, all of that kind of stuff—much more dangerous. I know that soccer, I believe, started with not soccer balls but human heads, if I'm not mistaken. I know golf has some strange history as well. But obviously, without any type of internet or TV or any entertainment, reading and being outside—activities—were much more prevalent back in the days.

N: Why have we become less risky with fewer dangerous activities, like with those games from before? Didn't they enjoy it?

MUSIAL: I think there's a fear of failure and death. I don't think that those games were necessarily the safest. And yeah, I mean, we've evolved, so we don't take those same types of risks. But people still *do* take risks—you know, hiking or climbing Mount Everest is a risk. There are dead bodies up there. It's just more mitigated now to keep it safe. Even in my lifetime, football has changed. The way people used to hit back in the '80s and '90s—a lot of those tackles are illegal now. Helmets are safer. There's an emphasis on making the game less dangerous because there are long-term consequences: CTE, brain damage, a lot of older football players end up dying in their 40s, 50s, and 60s rather than living longer because of the way the game used to be played.

N: It could be because of a lack of knowledge, because even fighters when they're punching each other in the faces, they're not noticing that later on they'll have brain damage and slurred speech. What have you noticed about how our technology has improved the knowledge of our lives?

MUSIAL: I think that technology is kind of a double-edged sword. We used to have less access to information, and we had to work harder to get it. We used our libraries and had to properly research things. Where today, you have ChatGPT pretty much giving students all the answers to anything they want, which just takes away their ability to get out there and find the information on their own when it's handed to you. So we have more access to information, but less critical thinking skills today in school. It's great to have access to the information, it's great to have answers spit out at you right away. But if you don't know how to think on your own, that's going to be a long-term issue.

When I grew up in school—and I'm going to sound like a dinosaur, I graduated high school in 2006—we had to work harder with fewer resources to get information, write essays, research papers, things of that nature. Now there are a lot of benefits, but if we don't learn how to think on our own and analyze a situation, and read on our own, and come up with our own thoughts, then we're just all going to be regurgitating what ChatGPT says.

What's more worrisome is that you can have politics be skewed, events and facts be skewed, and we get into this gray area of what is true. Especially when you have leaders having you question what you saw. I think a lot of times about the January 6th incident that occurred back in 2021, and how that has—depending on who is politically in office—been changed. I know what I watched on that day. It was during COVID. I remember teaching that day, and I know what I saw, I know what the video evidence shows. But we can have a leader come in and say that that's not what happened, and half the country will take that as truth. So it's all about being able to take resources or take knowledge and create your own opinions based on critical thinking. And that's the element I worry about with our students—that we're losing the ability to think on our own critically because technology makes it so easy to have an answer spit at you. It's easier to take that for fact without thinking on your own or doing more reading and researching.

N: How would students realistically practice that ability again?

MUSIAL: The only way to continue to think critically is to read a lot. We have to take in different sources of information, read opinions from both sides—for instance, of the political aisle, conservative or liberal—and come up with your own opinion. Don't rely on: "I saw this on TikTok, so I'm going to take that as a fact," without researching the other side. I don't care if you have an opinion, but just don't base that off of only knowing what one side is saying. Look at both sides and then come up with your own opinion—not just whatever an influencer said that you're going to take as a fact.

Reading is everything. You have to not take everything as fact and be able to decipher and understand the biases that people are coming with. Reading is one of the most important skills you'll ever learn as a student. Writing, speaking, and listening are all the things that you should be coming out of high school understanding how to do. ■

Boys Basketball

@mphsboysbasketball
Photos: @cassycaptured

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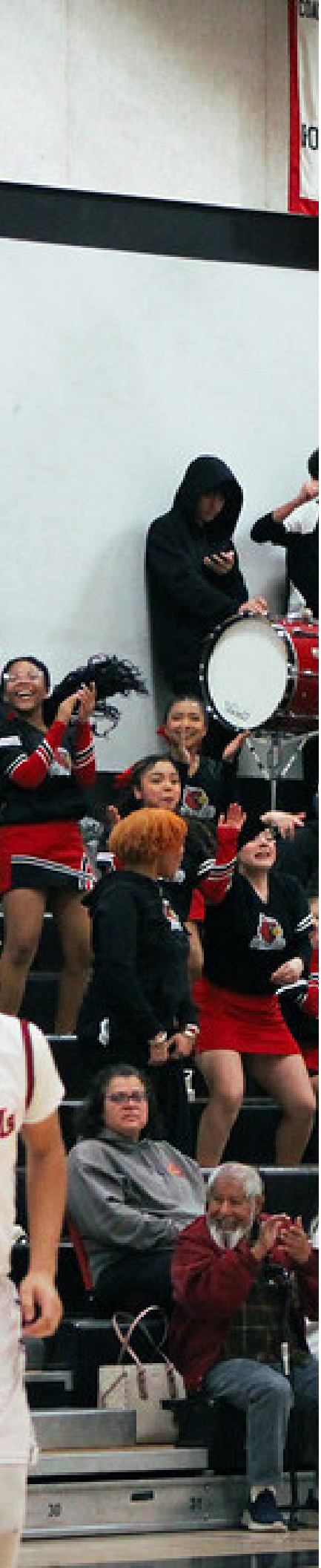

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* = MAURICIO = *

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

MAURICIO: My name is Mauricio Heredia, I'm from San Jose, and I go to Mt Pleasant High School.

N: And I heard you played basketball.

MAURICIO: Yeah I do.

N: How does basketball affect your life overall?

MAURICIO: Well, it's a sacrifice, man, just hard work. Always gotta thank the man from above God, you know, he's helped me with the work. But otherwise, my experience with it has been great—it's my passion to play. I've been playing since I was eleven, and ever since I've been putting in the work, that's where I got to how I am. Now, my goal is to one day be in *NBA*, and if not, well, a firefighter works out too. But the *NBA*'s my goal, that's why varsity basketball is important to me, you know, being with the boys. But my family's also helped out, especially my dad, when he trained with me, and my coach as well. He used to coach me when I was little, and then he grew up with me. He's in college now, but he still helps me out whenever he has a time. And I just forever grateful to all those people. That's how I got to how great I am right now.

N: You play outside of Mt Pleasant as well?

MAURICIO: I trained on my gym and play against pick up games—those always help me out, and my dad's always been there. I used to get mad at him because he'd always be yelling at me at the games, and I'd be pissed off. But because of that, he's helped me I see how hard he pushed me. He saw the potential I had, and he wanted to bring that out of me. And I'm forever thankful to him for that, you know, always training me, always making sure I do everything right, not half-half anything. It's all great.

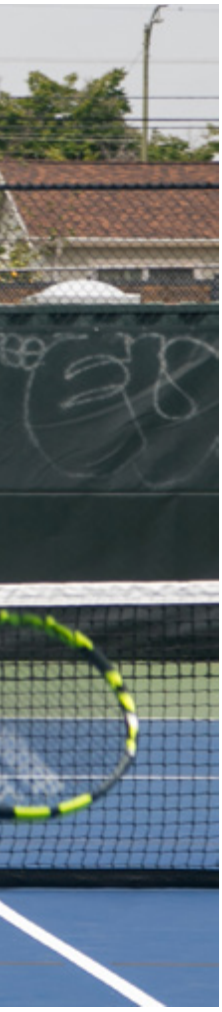
N: What's the key to being successful?

MAURICIO: One thing I would say is just, it's gonna require sacrifice. But what, another thing I'd say is, it's so worth it. You know, high schools only four years, it's important to join everything. And, you know, that's why I saw basketball as a lifetime opportunity, especially during high school. You never get those years back. So I recommend to other students to take the chance, always be grateful for the opportunities you have. Let's say one person doesn't wanna do it because they feel they're not gonna be good enough. With hard work, man, you never know what's gonna happen. You could be one of the top five best players. You never know until you try. ■

BOYS TENNIS

@mphs.boystennis

ETERMINATION



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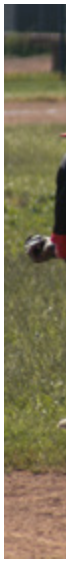

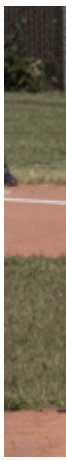

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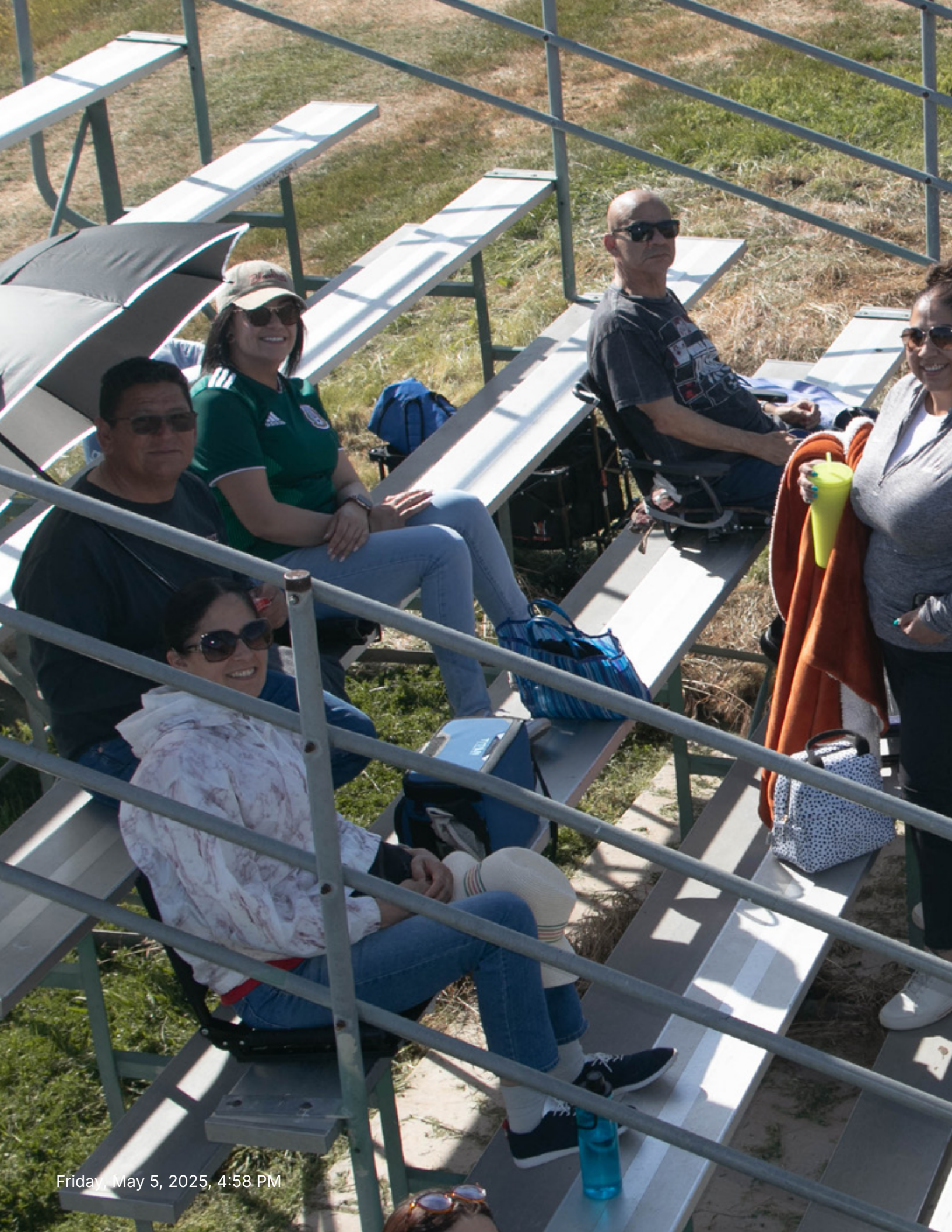

Friday, May 5, 2025, 4:58 PM

DSG

NOEY: What's your name, and where are you from?

LOBERT: I'm Trevor Lobert. I grew up here in East Side San Jose, and when I was young, I hung around the neighborhood a lot. I liked to be out with friends, either riding bikes or playing sports.

N: How was growing up without the internet?

LOBERT: So, I mean, the internet when I grew up was only used on the computer, and I wasn't a big computer-game person. Most of my childhood activities were outside.

Once we got older, we didn't really need the internet to keep us busy—or we didn't have it to keep us busy. That's probably why we did get into some trouble-type situations. We just wanted to enjoy our freedom. If we think about it now, we're locked in our phones because now we just sit around and look down. But when we were kids, it was, "What can we do outside? How late can we stay out before our moms call us in?"

N: I always see my little brothers either on the TV when they get home or on the computer. That's why, when I'm there, I try to take them out so they can play at the park, pick up worms, throw water balloons. What were the smaller, ordinary things you would do with your friends?

LOBERT: What we used to do is— not all of us played the same main sport, but we all liked to play different sports. Sometimes we would create games using a hockey stick and a basketball, and somehow incorporate a tennis racket or a baseball club. You know what I mean? We would just make games up.

We would also modify sports like baseball. If we didn't have nine on nine, we'd play a smaller version and shrink the field somehow. A lot of riding bikes, going to parks, hanging out. The thing was wanting to really explore. And then I got in trouble. I was the type of kid to go down the street, turn the corner, and keep going a little bit—not with the intention of running away, just, "Hey, I wanna see what's around the corner."

N: That reminds me of the song you mentioned, Rey Resurreccion's *The Hometown*, where he remembers the ice cream man used to give them stuff for free and they'd ride their bikes across San Jose.

LOBERT: The ice cream man was big back in my day. That was a big deal! When you heard the ice cream man, everyone was coming out.

I feel like it's kind of flooded now. Nowadays, a lot of the times they cheat and just hang out by the schools—maybe they did that a little bit back then too. But I just remember: when you heard that jingle, everybody was running out.

That was the thing too—you could hear the jingle. Nowadays, everyone's got their AirPods in. Everyone's got some sort of noise going on. A lot of times it's kind of hard to hear it. Maybe that's why it's not as big anymore, driving through the neighborhoods.

I remember being in L.A. with my cousins. We got one of those Spongebob ice creams with the little gumball eyes. My favorite! But it was summertime, and it was melting. Then I ended up getting sick off it—it wasn't even that bad. Still, I never got one since. Haha. But I loved ice cream.

N: Man, that's classic. What were the other food trucks like—taquerías?

LOBERT: They weren't as big back then. That's kind of been a newer thing too. It was more of a niche thing, like a catering truck—they'd just come and bring food. They weren't just in random places like they are now.

I went to the park with my daughters last Saturday, and there was a guy who just pulled up and started barbecuing chicken and ribs. Crazy! That's been a new thing—a cultural shift with the tech boom, social media, navigation, being able to find things easier.

When I grew up, if you wanted to go someplace, you had to go to your computer, print out directions, and then follow them—"Turn left on this street." You had to actually look for the street. It wasn't just GPS saying, "Make the next left."

Sometimes we even had to pull out maps—actual maps. If you ended up somewhere without directions printed, you'd pull out a California map and start looking: What's the nearest street to me? A lot of kids nowadays probably don't even know how to do that.

I have a funny story. One time my mom was trying to go to this historic town in California called Bodie—it's a ghost town, apparently. She had a hard time finding it on Google Maps. She finally found it, printed the directions, and we started driving.

We end up in some random guy's driveway in the middle of Lodi, California. Somehow she had switched from Bodie to Lodi—it looked kind of like Bodie, but it was Lodi. We literally pulled into this guy's driveway, and all of a sudden these kids come out, raising what looked like Airsoft pistols. I'm pretty sure one of them shot our car, but it could've been a rock too.

We were like, "Okay, now where are we?" So we had to pull out a map. We realized, all right, we're not that far from Sacramento, only about 50 miles. So we ended up in Sacramento for the day.

N: I have another story about my mom. She was just riding her bike when all of a sudden a neighborhood kid shot her with a BB gun! She got a scar out of it too. So what are your craziest stories from when you were a teenager?

LOBERT: Well, I have another BB gun story. My buddies and I went over to their house, and their brothers were playing with BB guns—shooting each other. These were real metal bullets. They hurt.

Me and one of the brothers ran upstairs to his room, and he kicked out the screen. He started shooting down at his brother, who was hiding under the boat. They're ducking and dodging. I'm in the room getting ricochet hits.

Finally, my buddy gets hit on the side of his head. He's ticked off. So he just goes and stands out in the window, totally exposed. As soon as his brother popped his head up, he shot him. The BB went right through his eyelid.

We thought he was faking. Then we heard the door slam inside—he ran in. I went to check, thinking I'd take the hit. But no—he really got shot in the eye. We were super worried. Then he literally pulled his eyelid, and the BB fell out of the gap between his eyelid and eyeball.

He said he couldn't see color for two hours. Crazy. That was one of those "You'll shoot your eye out" moments, but in real life.

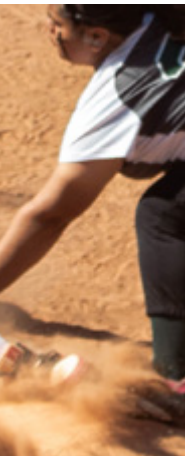
N: With all the stupid things you did as a kid, and all the random fun, what's the best advice you can give to your baseball players and your students?

LOBERT: Work hard first, and play more later. We tend to want to have fun and avoid responsibilities when we're young, but if we can learn to take care of those responsibilities, it makes being an adult so much easier. Then you get to have more fun as an adult.

So that's what I would say: work hard. Don't feel like you're missing out on too much if you're not getting into trouble or going to parties. Just be the best you can be. And then, as an adult, you'll have more than enough time to party hard and have fun—and it'll feel a lot better. You'll be more responsible, and the experience will be more fulfilling. ■

Softball
@mphssoftball2025

MT. PLEASANT



Class of
2025
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16

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MT. PLEASANT
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7

ORGANIZATIONS

School Site Council

ROBOTICS

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

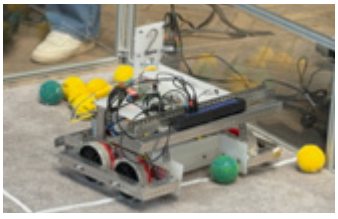
TRACY: Tracy Doan, San Jose. Yup, from here.

N: How long have you been in Robotics for?

TRACY: Two years. My friend and I started this club last year, so this has been the only time it existed. So basically since the beginning.

N: Ken [robotics officer] has always been mentioning Robotics and UC Berkley and you guys recently went on the Berkeley trip, so what's your involvement with Berkeley, and how do they support the club?

TRACY: Berkeley has this competition with high school pioneers and engineering, and they basically cater to newer robotic schools in the Bay Area that are low income. So all we do is we work food fest, and we pay for one kit that's a hundred dollars. That's the only starter kit you need that you can use to make your whole robot and other parts.



You spend your fake money called Panda Points on them, and they give you two-hundred Panda Points, so you can spend and get more materials from them for free. All you do is spend a hundred dollars for your club to enter a competition where you complete their challenges with another team and win by getting the most points at the end.

This year we had a pirate theme, which is divided the course into two parts, and four teams compete two-v-two. And it's like a pirate ship which is made out of, like, cardboard, wood planks and all that. It's like you cross the plank, at a certain time you have to turn the wheel, your robot has to push buttons to pull down the flag on your pirate ship, and throw cannon balls into the other side, Throw cannon balls and you gain points. So it's just like at the end, who gains the most points.

We also get to eat at lunchtime. And we also get to, like, explore Berkeley. And I think that's, that's the most fun part that everyone really likes. You can just go explore on your own, go find food, and then we all come back and just all continue work on a robot.

N: What about the Berekly trip left the greatest impression on you?

TRACY: I think I was just like high school students, you go on a college campus and you're kind of like, wow. You're like, damn, this is pretty big. You have so much more free will. You can go get food and go places, all that. Whereas in high school, you're trapped in this square for eight hours a day, and you're not allowed to go get food, so you have a lot more freedom.

It's just cool to see what food places are there and just see the campus in general. Because when we compete, we work inside of a main campus, inside one of the science buildings, so you can see how classrooms are structured. Some classrooms even use chalkboard, and it's just really interesting to explore. High school is like the smaller version of college,

N: What's the overlap between the robotics club and the

engineering roles at university?

TRACY: I really don't know. It's just a lot of trail and error, everyone's just trying, even the college students. When we have a problem in our code, they're like, "Oh well, I'll *try* and help you." Everyone's learning—they get to learn from a creative standpoint, and we get to learn as a young engineer standpoint. So everyone's collectively learning together—it's a big learning environment. Honestly, the biggest take away from this challenge and the competitions are to overcome challenges whether you're a staff or a student.

N: In the Google Doc that Mr. Wou [Robotics Advisor] sent out in the principal message, he said there's was all kinds of trouble. What went wrong and how did you overcome it?

TRACY: We have a couple of juniors that are actively in the club, and, as a returning officer that is not going into engineering or computer science and going into biology, I know nothing of the coding side. So when our actual coders aren't there, it leaves everyone in a situation where we all don't know what to do because I'm gonna look at a code and it looks like algebra and calculus and physics and everything meshed together, and I don't understand anything. You can't help your younger members if you yourself don't know what you're doing. So the challenge of overcoming that is basically learn on your own.

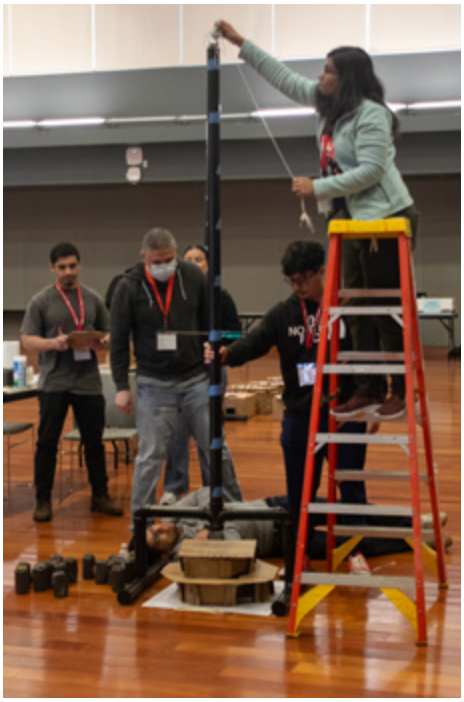
I'm one of the people in charge of building the robot mechanically, so just putting the robot together pieces wise, not connecting it to the computer. Our hardest trouble was always coding: literally the first day of the competition, we couldn't get our robot to move. It was built. It was there. But for some reason our robot won't connect, won't move! And then we have to overcome that challenge and ask for help and search up if our wiring is correct, make sure every single wire's connected to every single piece correctly so that our robot is connected to our computer in our software. And it was just a bunch of stressing. We don't wanna get on the course itself and just be our robot that can't move because that's really sad after weeks putting into building a robot.

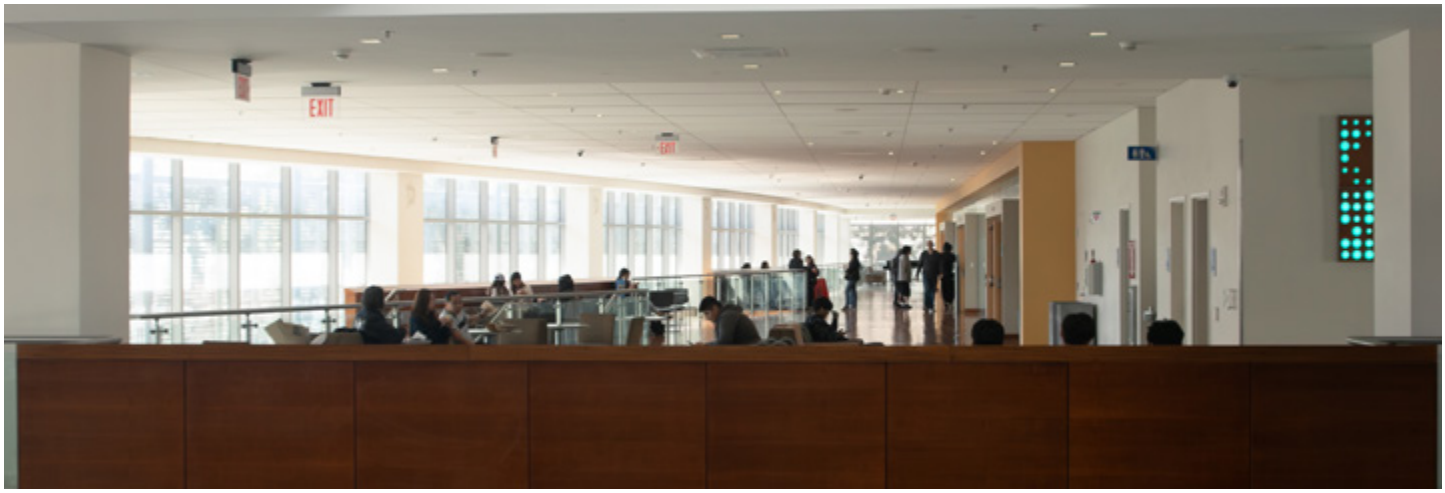
N: Why did you start the club if you're going to a field unrelated to engineering and coding?

TRACY: I started this club because I really wanted to try new things going into high school—I'm always trying something out to see if I like it or not. Because, before this year, I didn't know what I wanted to go into. So if I didn't try it, how will I know if I like it or not? And I think robotics is one of those new things that I'm like, "Yes, I wanna try because it looks so cool to be able to build something from nothing." Earth, you know, like, it's not like something you have to go out of reach for. Robotics is something that's doable. And honestly when I was younger, I did Lego Robotics, and I thought that was really fun. I think that's why I end up being the mechanical person for our team, but it's not something I'm passionate about. Once you go into something like engineering or computer science, you have to actually code. I don't do that. That's just not my passion, something that's not gonna interest me. But I really like building robotics as a hobby.

You should *try* it out. You won't know if you like it until you try it. Trying something new might be intimidating at first, especially not knowing anything, but from someone who created this club and didn't know a single thing about robotics, I promise you, you will be fine, and you will have support along the way, especially with people in this club. ■

MESA DAY

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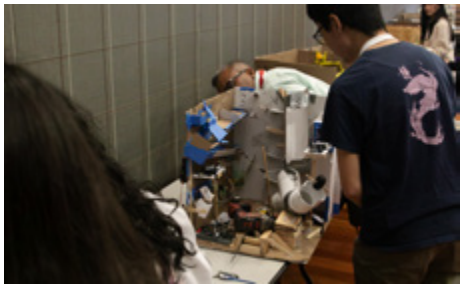
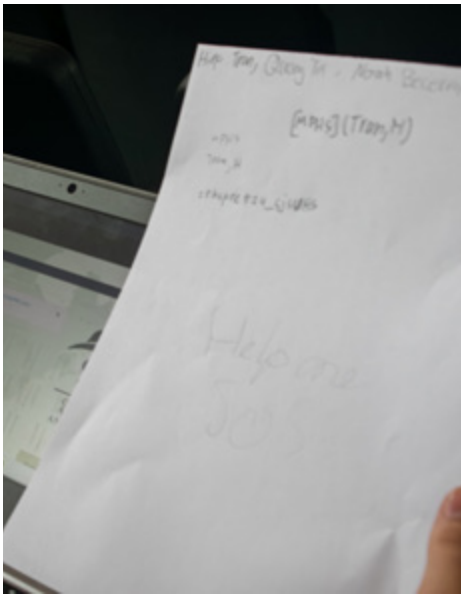




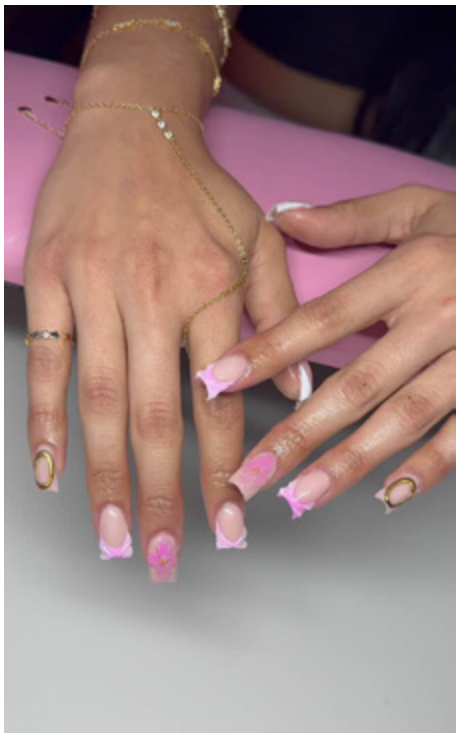
BALLROOM A
SJSU

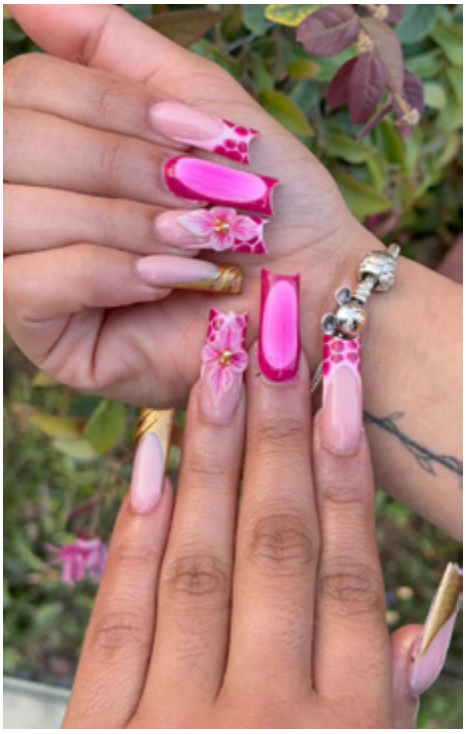
EXIT

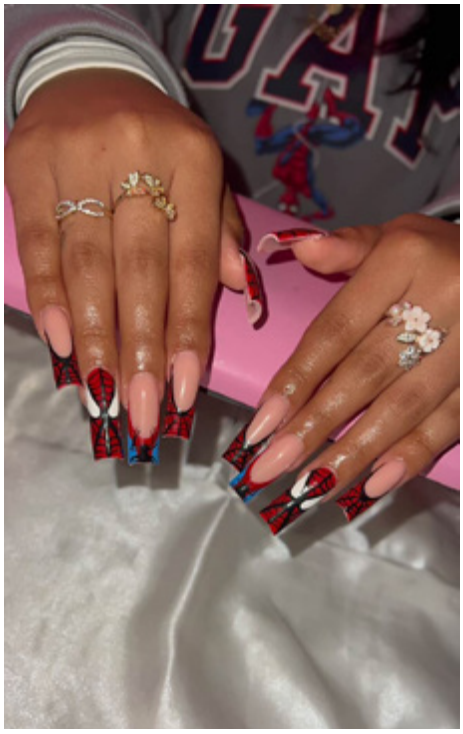
MESA

NAIL TECHNICIAN

Addy Cortez







NAILSBY_ADDY

SVUDL

SILICON VALLEY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

Logo used for editorial identification. © Silicon Valley Urban Debate League

Mt Pleasant Speech & Debate 2024/2025

SVUDL Championship Awards

Anvay (Silver Creek)

Issa, Tina, & Co (Independence)

CERTIFICATE
OF PARTICIPATION
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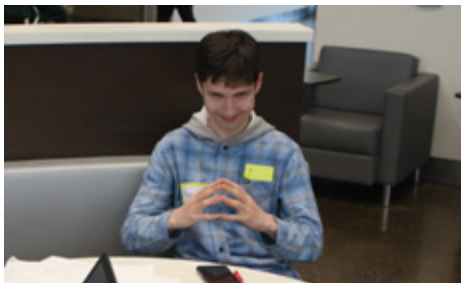
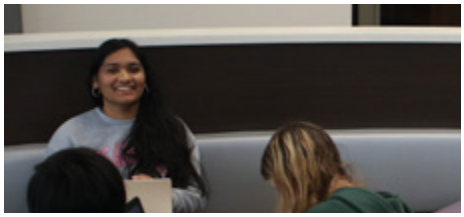
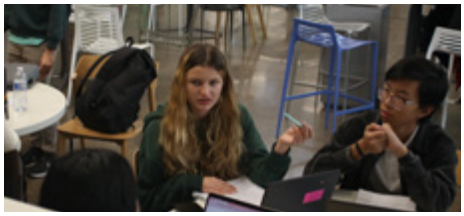






**** *Nghi from Vietnam* ****

NOEY: What's your name and where are you from?

NGHI: My name is Nghi and I'm from Vietnam.

N: When did you come to the U.S.?

NGHI: I came to the U.S. five years ago when I was in fifth grade. I personally learned English in Vietnam. My parents paid a lot of money for me to learn it, but I think it was a waste of money. At that time, there weren't a lot of new academies, and they focused more on money. So basically, I didn't learn as much as I expected. When I came to the U.S., my English got more comfortable.

N: What about other countries you went to afterward?

NGHI: I lived in Vietnam, then moved to Russia for two or three years because of my parents' work. I only went to kindergarten there, so I didn't learn much of the language. I went to Thailand and Singapore too, but just for vacation. We mostly stayed in Asia.

N: What do you remember about those countries—Russia, Singapore, and Thailand?

NGHI: In Russia, people were pretty nice, especially kids. But the older people weren't as friendly. In Thailand and Singapore, people were welcoming. But Singapore was expensive. The hotel rooms were small, just for one bed.

N: How do Asian countries compare to the US, food-wise?

NGHI: I like Asian food more. They make a lot of different dishes and the flavors are really good. There are more choices and the prices are way cheaper than in the U.S. Food in the U.S. is good too, but not as many options. And in Asia, eating is more social. People sit around a big round table, sometimes on small chairs. It's fun. I like the small chairs and tables. It's easier to talk to people because you're closer.

N: What's the atmosphere like in Asian countries?

NGHI: It's very energetic. A lot of sounds—bicycles, people talking. Not chilling like in the U.S., but lively.

N: What do you usually do for fun in Vietnam?

NGHI: When I go back, I mostly go on vacation to the beach or shopping. I love going to coffee shops and bakeries. There are so many coffee shops, like five in just one kilometer. Not all are great, but it depends. Some look good on the outside but aren't that great inside.

N: Is that because they're small local shops?

NGHI: I think it depends on people's taste, but I like supporting local businesses more than big chain restaurants. I like the atmosphere better too.

N: What do you like about being in America?

NGHI: In America, there's a lot of freedom and space. It made me more comfortable speaking in public. Going to public school helped me feel more open with people. I'm more comfortable now, sharing myself and not keeping things inside. I've learned a lot about how people think and the way they talk to each other. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL
= CLUB =
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE
CLUB

* Messages for consideration

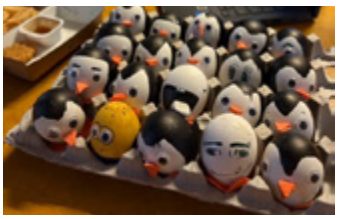
Environmental Club Foodfest Fall '25 Poster

Foodfest Fall '25

Jesuslen (front), Alex (background)

Jesuslen (front), Alex (background)

Environmental Officers '25



Michelle (left), Lulu (right)

Design by Noey @ripperchassis

CITY PEACE PROJECT CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

@thecitypeaceproject

SAN JOSE
Beautifysj.o

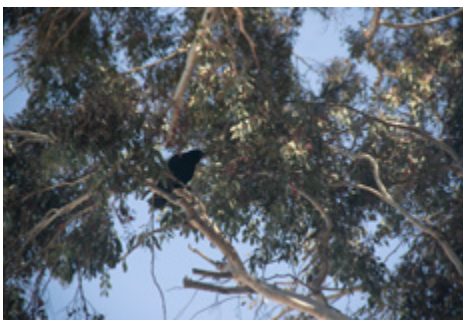
recycle.

BEFORE

AFTER

WINNERS!!!

* Note that the group cap size was ~6



NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

CHRISTIANSON: My name is Albert Christianson. I was originally born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

N: What's your experience with the military?

CHRISTIANSON: I joined the Marine Corps during high school. I signed up my senior year. Then I went to boot camp the following January. So it was January 1992, I went to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego where I spent thirteen weeks being transformed into a United States Marine upon graduation. From there, I went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for my initial military occupational specialty training. So basically my job training.

I was an artilleryman, and my job specifically within artillery was fire direction control—otherwise known as FDC. We use a lot of acronyms in the military. And in the simple form of that is basically when we see bad guys, people call in the information that they have. We transform that into numbers that we can send to the big artillery howitzers and give them data to be able to put on the howitzers so they shoot quickly and accurately—if we've done our job correctly.

My first year in the Marine Corps was in Okinawa, Japan, with that job where I was stationed with twelve Marines. We traveled to Korea, trained with the Republic of Korea Marines, had a really good time in Japan—I liked the culture. And I would definitely say that was one point in my life to kind of help shape who I am, right? Just broadening my mind about the different cultures besides America. I was stationed in the East Coast after that, North Carolina, for about four and a half years, and while I was there, I did two six-month deployments with the Navy where we would get on their ships.

We would travel across the ocean to the Mediterranean. I got to experience it in the summertime, and then in the wintertime, and both very unique. We stopped at Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece. We did some training exercises with some of the different countries that were over there, which is always interesting. I definitely enjoyed my time there, and just like Japan, I think it helped shape my mind about the world and people in general, right, different cultures, and it gave me a better understanding of how the world really works.

After, I was in Oahu, Hawaii, for about three and a half years, still doing artillery. And you know, at that point, I was like, how could I not continue to stay in the military, right? Because they're going to send me to Hawaii to basically live in paradise. And so when I was there, we trained over in the big island of Hawaii. And that was definitely an experience going over there on the ships, and driving the gear up to the mountains, training in this kind of lava dust—because there's all volcanoes and lava fields. It turns into this dust and it just gets into everything. But anyways, it was still a good training.

I went again to Japan for seven months on deployment like I did at the Mediterranean. We went to Thailand and trained with the Royal Thai Marines. This was in spring of 1999. We actually lived with the Royal Thai Marines with about thirty other guys out deep into the jungles and

trained with them in artillery. This was one of the major highlights of my career. When you're in these different language classes, they talk about immersion, right? And you'll really learn more if you could go to a country and just immerse yourself in it. That is definitely true because I still remember a little bit of the phrases they taught us while we were there. But more importantly, I really got to see how they lay their culture, eat their foods. And you know, at the heart, humans are pretty much the same. We just live in different places. Maybe we eat a little bit different foods. Maybe we have a couple different customs. But in the end, we all are very same in the middle.

After that, I came back and then I went on recruiting duty. This was in 2000. And that was actually the first time that I had worked here in the Bay Area. At that time, Mt Pleasant High School was one of the schools that I recruited out of. That's where I first met retired master sergeant James Sherreod And then at the time, Lieutenant Colonel Kluff was the senior training instructor. I didn't even know that junior ROTC existed. I had no idea what it was. But after spending some time with cadets and Top and Lieutenant Colonel, I told Top, "This is something that I think I might enjoy doing when I retired." And so he was all, "Well, let's keep in contact." Over the next fifteen years, whenever we were home, I say home because my wife's daughters are from the Bay Area. Whenever we were back here in the Bay Area visiting, which was definitely a couple times a year.

Sometimes I would call and stop in to visit Top and the cadets. And so I think we definitely created a bond. And I mentioned that because it'll come back in a little bit. But yeah, so recruiting duty was hard. But once again, it was one of those things that kind of helped shape my life and challenged me to do something that was kind of out of my comfort zone. It definitely made me a better person afterwards.

Right while I was on recruiting duty, 9-11 happened. And I definitely remember that day very well. I was at the 24 Hour Fitness over there on McKee Road. And remember being on the cardio machine and all the TVs changed to the live news and the towers. It was just a crazy time in American history. But because of that, when I left for recruiting duty in June of 2004, I went back to Camp Pendleton, California, which is down in SoCal. And I went to a unit that was getting ready to deploy to Iraq. So I literally got there, and two weeks later, I was in Iraq. And I was there for seven months.

While we were there, you could train and you could train and you can train. You read and studied what combat is. But you never know how it's going to affect you or how you're performing until you're in the moment. Overall, I think I did very well and performed very well. But combat definitely had its impact on me. Good and bad.

At the same time, I fought with some of the best Marines and sailors that I've ever had the privilege of working with. And I'm definitely very honored to have fought alongside them. We came back from the second and were home for seven months, training some more, and went back to Iraq. So within a twenty-one month period, I was in Iraq for fourteen months, which was hard on my wife and family. But you know, that's what we were doing at the time: we were fighting the war on terror.

I needed a break when I came back. I had been interested in doing junior arts, so I reached out to some people because we have military schools. And so I had applied to teach a career level school in the Marine Corps and was accepted. So for three years, I taught at the gunny course and taught career level Marines leadership and a bunch of other things. But I really had a good time there. It was a much needed break for me mentally, but at the same time, it challenged me and it gave me a great chance to see how I liked teaching and education. I really enjoyed it as well as the Marines that I served with. And so that was kind of paved my way to where I'm at now.

After those three years, I went back to artillery and stayed there in Camp Pendleton. The Marine Corps was actually changing artillery at the time from conventional cannons to what we called rocket artillery. And these trucks that we call high mars, high mobility. And we were kind of at the forefront of trying to like test out our capabilities. And so for eighteen months, I worked the hardest that I ever

continued...

worked outside of combat. And just planning and training and preparing Marines to go overseas and developing, you know, procedures that are still in use today. And so besides combat, this was one of my proudest times as being there and helping shape history within the community.

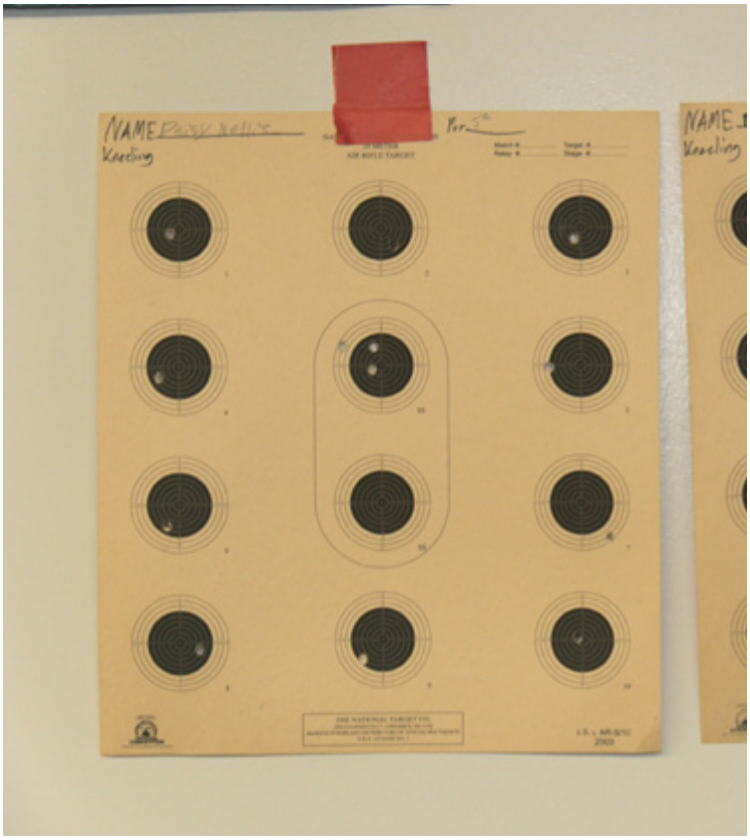
For my last three years, I got moved to Oklahoma back to where my schooling was at. I was in charge of an entry level school and a career level school. When I was there, I was in charge of the schools. And I still did a little bit of teaching. I still worked with curriculum and all that kind of stuff, so it really solidified that I wanted to get into education.

Once I retired in June of 2015, literally a week later, Top James Sharad called me up and said, "Hey, it's not a guarantee. We've got an opening at Mt Pleasant. If you want to come and apply, I'll let the principal know. We'll set up a date and time." And so I said, "Give me a day or two to think about it. And I'll get back to you." My wife and I talked about it. Neither of us had any solidified jobs at the time. And we thought it was worth the risk. And so we changed our plans, packed up everything, and we were here by the 4th of July 2015. I interviewed here at the school in August with Miss Carrero, who was at the time the new principal, and I was hired to start teaching in November. And so for the last nine and a half years, Mt Pleasant and junior ROTC has been my home.

And it's so many memories, so many fantastic memories of students that have come and participated whether they were there. For one year, two years, three years, or even all four, being to see them grow and develop, and then even to still stay in contact with a lot of them and to see how successful they've become, their different avenues that they've gone on, career-wise. So it has definitely been a very fulfilling job for me. But more importantly, it's not work. It really is my passion. I really do enjoy coming to work and teaching and educating. And just giving students a different perspective on education and a different perspective on life.

N: You come accoss to have a strong and vivid memory of your experience in the military, from your training, traveling, combat, and now your teaching. Before I ask how ROTC can lead to those experiences, could you explain what ROTC is and what programs does it offer?

CHRISTIANSON: Sure. Each military service, the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, all have what we call Junior Reserve Officer Training Core Programs. The Junior is at colleges like SJSU, SCU, and Stanford. They have Reserve Officer Training Core (ROTC) programs. And then if they do all the classes in training, then at the end they can become commission as officers. The principal is the same at the high school, but we're not necessarily here to recruit. We're really just here to provide a course that provides leadership at its primary core and community service. Those are kind of like the two main pillars. But because it is the military, we teach a lot of the same things that they do at the college level, and then we get in the Marine Corps. So physical fitness, drill, being able to march and follow commands, color guard, doing marksmanship, a lot of leadership classes, history, classes about the government, politics.



There's so many things that we cover in this program, but leadership and community service being the big ones that people know us the most for. And I say community service because the color guard helps out for awards nights, different sporting events, typicaly football games, all just within the school. We'll be out there for the home games to present the colors during the national anthem. There's other events that the school host that we provide color guard or just the students for in relation to community service. And in the last nine years that I've been here, we have been supporting the community in a food distribution efforts where the cadets come in every third Saturday of the month and donate four hours of their time to really give back to the community. It's kind of really the epitome of what community service is. And then we do things outside of the school as well.

We, our classes, our students are very diverse, come

from different cultures. And so we support the Hispanic community, we support the Vietnamese community. We support a lot of different communities. And so historically, we've participated in different Hispanic events with color guard. There's a couple different events that we support in the cherry blossom, the tent festival for the Vietnamese community. And then most of the years, minus during COVID, we would support the Miss Vietnam pageant that they would hold every January. And then we've done stuff for the city, we've done projects at Lake Cunningham for the city before. We have participated in March and the Veterans Day parade during November.

But all of that encompasses what is really just an elective, right? We're an elective, just like if somebody was to take an art class, or to take a guitar class, or even to take like a world language, right? Those are all elective classes, and that's really what junior ROTC is. But as you can tell from everything I just talked about, it's really more than just a class because of what we do outside of the class, and that's what makes it special, and that's what keeps bringing the students back. When I say back, I mean we have a legacy of family members that have come through the program over the 25 plus years that the program's been in existence. So, my very first year, I had two students, a brother and a sister that were in the program. Their mom was one of the original junior cadets at Mt Pleasant when the program started. She was a graduate and Mt Pleasant. And so, you know, there's probably easily fifteen to twenty families in just the nine years that I've been here of legacy cadets where somebody's older brother, sister, uncle, aunt, mom, or dad had been through the program. I mean, even Gio, the guy that works at the school bank, he was a cadet of Marine Corps Junior ROTC and Mt Pleasant. And there's just so many more.

It really does build confidence for the students because I think the other thing that makes it so successful and why it's so enjoyable, not to take away from the other classes, like in math, math is very regimented, right? You're learning multiplication, additions, subtraction, solving equations, right? There's not a lot of extra that goes on besides the math problems themselves. But in order to see, we do teach classes, but we're not always behind the desk. We're out doing physical fitness or we're out doing marksmanship over outside learning how to do drill or we're standing uniform inspections. And we do so many things that it kind of gives the students a break from having to sit behind that desk all day and just do problems or write essays or, you know, whatever the classes that they're learning about. So, I always feel like for the students it's like a mental break that can kind of just come here. They're still learning, right? But it's just a different type of learning.

We don't typically have people late to class when we're doing marksmanship and some of these other fun activities, the students want to be here on time. They want to do these things. And so the other part of those intangibles, besides that confidence and these things that they're learning, but really learning how to work as a team and to be part of a community. That's really important, and it's changed over the years, but I'll just say in the last nine years that we've had a lot of students that have come from Vietnam and the Philippines, Mexico, South America, Central America, right? And so we've got students from, Belize and Peru and El Salvador and Nicaragua and Colombia, right? And so it allows them to come in here and to feel like they're part of a family. I think this is what students that are not originally from the United States were hoping for, but they don't necessarily always have those opportunities—not saying that it doesn't happen in other classrooms. But in order to see, we've always been able to bring everybody together from different backgrounds, language barriers, and to be able to put them together and make them a part of this family.

This was the biggest thing that I enjoy, is that even though I know they're not Marines—although I like to treat them like Marines—really what I'm showing them is that this is how it should be when you're working in a good organization. When you have quality leadership, leadership that communicates, leadership that genuinally cares about your success, and not just academic success. Because I think at today's day and age, they don't hear that enough, right? They come to school and they're supposed to do their assignments. They go home, they've got chores, some of them have to work, and there's all these other things that are going on, and so it's easy to overlook the students on the work that they are doing, because it is important, and it is going to set them up for success.

N: What is some of the growth that you've seen from the students at your program, ROTC?

CHRISTIANSON: We've had some kids that have come from some really rough backgrounds, whether they weren't living with their parents or they were living with an aunt or an uncle or a grandma or grandpa, and the family situation just wasn't very good. They knew that when they came here, that we didn't judge, that we didn't care about what was going outside of the classroom. All we cared was that they were here and that they were part of the team, right, and as long as they did their part, contributed, and put in the same amount of work that everybody else did, that they were going to be treated fairly and equally. And I think that is something that was really important to them, because once again, maybe they weren't getting that kind of treatment at home. So to be able to know that they could come here and be counted on, right, and then

continued...

to see those kids really kind of grow and develop and turn into some really good leaders.

We've had many, many instances of cadets that came here that didn't speak any English, but by the time they left my pleasant at the end of four years, not only were they speaking English, they were now in ASB positions, key leadership positions within the program, and really having an impact on our success. And so to me, I think those are always my most proud moments to see somebody that really didn't believe in themselves, really didn't have a lot going on for themselves and to see them grow confidence and to develop those intangible skills that they didn't have before. And really just blossom into a fine outstanding young man or young woman.

I will tell you, in the 25 plus years of Mt Pleasant, Junior ROTC, we have had cadets that are doctors, lawyers, people that own their own businesses, and many, many other jobs throughout the Bay Area and throughout the world. And when you talk to them, they always talk about their connection with Junior ROTC, and it was that that set them up for success. That's what they remember. Once again, I have to take away from the other classes, but they don't remember the math class or the English class or the history class. But they remember being with their buddies in Junior ROTC and maybe doing a community service event or helping out with Miss Vietnam pageant or whatever it may be. Those are the memories that they remember.

N: Could you shout out a underclassman like a freshman or a sophomore who's committed themselves to the Junior ROTC program?

CHRISTIANSON: Evan. He didn't know a lot of people, but he came in and he put in the work and he was very respectful and he was very polite. He would come and support the different community service events. It's really been impressive to see him grow into a, a fine outstanding young man. I know that him and I will stay in touch and I look forward to seeing him in his future successes.

And then I got, I got another sophomore, Noah who last year as a freshman was just an absolute knucklehead. Typical freshman, not going to class on time, not turning his assignments, but he liked ROTC. And he always excelled at marksmanship. And then this year, he started off the same, but then we had a conversation and I said, "Hey, it's time." And since then, he's really stepped it up and he's been part of the color guard team and he's been, you know, once again, one of the best shooters that we've had in the program. It's really good to see him kind of starting to really grow and develop into the, into the young man that I always thought he could be.

N: How has ROTC affected your life as you've been leading this program for the last decade?

CHRISTIANSON: It has affected me in so many positive ways. It's allowed me to be able to do what I love to do, and that's to teach, train, and educate, and mentor the young men and women that come through Mt Pleasant and to see them grow and be successful. Then it's allowed me transition from the person that I was in the military to just, now I'm just out, right? I'm still teaching ROTC; it's really allowed me to instill those things that are important to the program but to also be myself. And in that, the greatest lesson is learning to become who I wanted to be after I got out. ■

“At the heart, humans are pretty much the same. We just live in different places”

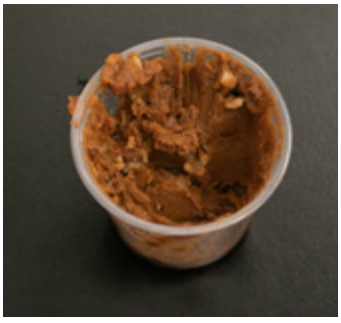
—Albert Christianson

This summer marks the official retirement of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC Leadership Mt Pleasant Unit.

MPHS EATS

School Meals

[Cover] Complete lunch: Wrapped cheeseburger, Cheeseburger, Broccoli, Orange, & Toppings
[Row 1] Brunch: Breakfast Burrito & Wrapped Apple | Apple Sauce | Grilled Cheese | Milk | Corizo Burrito | Breakfast Cookie & Milk
[Row 2] Assorted: Denver's Daily Quesadillas | Mr. Olguin's Treats | Alex Pena's Lunchbox



[Row 1-2] Lunch: Tri-Tip Steak | Lettuce Wrap | Meatloaf | Spicy Chicken Sandwich | Cheeseburger | Spicy Chicken Lettuce Wrap | Teriyaki Chicken | Chicken, Cheese, & Rice
[Row 3] Sides: Assorted Veggies | Baked Beans | Frozen Peach | Frozen Berries

CHILD NUTRITION STAFF

TASTY SPICY CHICKEN SANDWICH

CHEESEBURGER

Restaurants & Home cooks: Aqui | Chicken Nuggets | Mastro's Steakhouse | Sulbing Cafe | Ramen Hinodeya - @cassycaptured | Bibimbap | Curry | Corn dog | Raising Cane's - Isabel Martinez

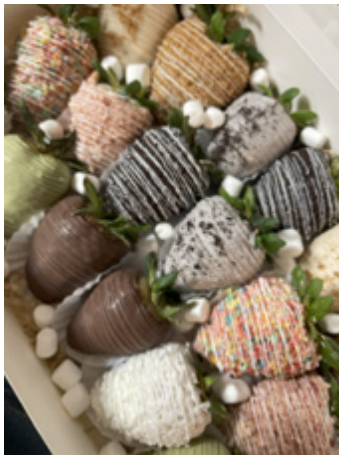
[Row 1] @07.aangell's Fast Food & Home Meals: I gotta admit, these don't look the most appetizing...
[Row 2] @hologramworld's Meals from Restaurants: Hokkaido Ramen Santouka | Raising Cane's | In-N-Out, | Luna's Mexican Kitchen | Happy Lemon | Subway - Sakshi Raichand

@metabsweets

dm2order ❦
pick up & delivery

"Hey everyone! I just wanted to introduce myself so you all can get to know me. My name is Meta. I'm currently a junior in high school. I'm located in San Jose, California. I started making strawberries around one year and a half ago. It's been a joy for me ever since. Some things I love to do in life are, of course, make these sweet treats for you guys, but I also enjoy hanging out with my friends and family. So thank you so much for the love and support 🤍🍓🧸"

—Meta



Sweets Menu
Dm for any questions or requests @metabsweets 🍓

Chocolate covered Strawberries
-4 count ($10)
-Half dozen ($15)
-8 count ($20)
-10 count ($25)
-One dozen ($30)
-16 count ($40)
-18 count ($45)

Flavors
-Milk Chocolate
-White Chocolate
-Dark Chocolate
-Any Color Chocolate
-Caramel Drizzle
-Fruity Pebbles
-Cocoa Pebbles
-Cinnamon Toast Crunch
-S'mores
-Cookies n' cream
-Oreo
-Strawberry Crunch
-Lotus Biscoff
-Cookie Butter
-Coconut
-Reeses's Peanut Butter Cup
-Turtles Pecan flavor
-Matcha
-Cheesecake Filled +($5)

Breakable Chocolate Hearts
-Heart only ($15)
-Heart + Half dozen Strawberries ($30)

Dripped Pretzels
-Half dozen ($10)
-One dozen ($20)

Dripped Rice Crispy Treats
-3 count ($20)
-Half dozen ($10)
-One dozen ($20)

Mini Tres Leches Cakes
-1 count ($5)
-2 count ($10)
-Flavors
-Original w/ Berries
-Strawberry Crunch
-Cinnamon Toast Crunch
-Fruity Pebbles
-Oreo

Churro Cheesecake Bites ($10)
-Toppings (2 count)
-Condensed Milk
-Nutella
-Caramel
-Cookie Butter
-1 Chocolate covered Strawberry
-Extra Strawberries

Banana Bread (contains nuts)
-1 count ($3)
-3 count ($6)

*Consult for strawberry, treat, or cake catering

@sweetsby.jay1

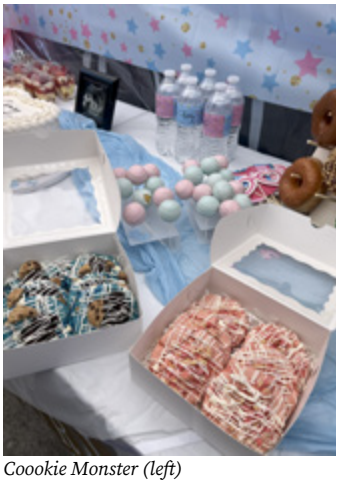
Price

1 🍪 for $3
3 🍪 for $8
6 🍪 for $16

Flavors

-Cookie Monster
-Cookies & Cream
-Strawberry Crunch
-Red Velvet
-Salted Brownie
-Ferrero Rocher $5*
-More Cookies!

Dm @sweetsby.jay1 to order


Coookie Monster (left)

Red Velvet

Cinnamon Toast Crunch

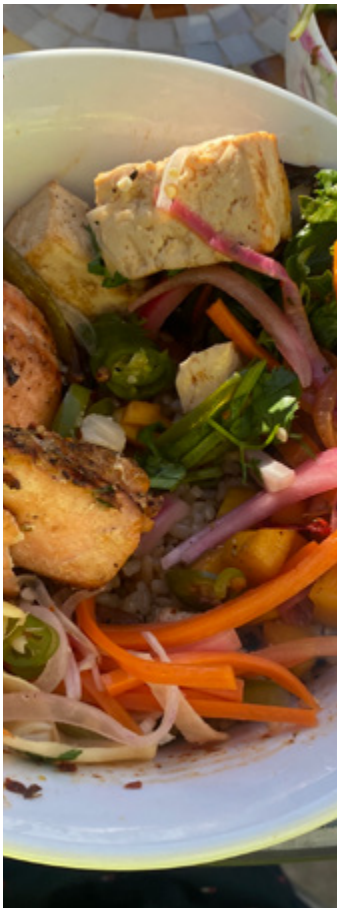
Fruity Pebble

Red Velvet (Boxed)

Ferrero Brocher

Salted Brownie

Strawberry Crunch



@noeynbh's cooking: Quinoa & Veggies | Brown Rice & Pickled Veggies | Dashi Soup | Chicken Pasta | Veggies Pasta | Spring Roll | Costco Pasta & Chilies | Beetroot Pasta | Costco Pasta & Veggies | Salmon & Veggies Omelet | Mushrooms, Chilies, & Broccoli | Onion Omelet | Ribeye, Mushrooms, & Broccoli | Meatloaf | BBQ Chicken

Osterkamp

"Helping Make MPHS a Better Place for Everyone"
HING ENVIRONMENTS
room • Gym • Theater and Library
Complete your assignments
Be on time
Come prepared with materials
Control yourself and your actions
Follow rules and directions
Ask for help when you need it
Take turns speaking and listening
Use polite language
Be open minded
Appreciate people's efforts
Take care of borrowed materials and return them
Claim only your work as your own
Just admit it if your blew it
best version of yourself
CUBS

NOEY: What is your name? Where are you from? And which classes do you teach?

OSTERKAMP: My name is Mr. Osterkamp. I grew up in Santa Cruz, California and now live in San Jose, California. This year I'm teaching government and economics.

N: On your wall, you have photographs from all different parts of the world, so which countries did you visit?

OSTERKAMP: My first few trips was to Europe, being a history teacher that kind of was a motivation to get over to Europe. And then I had a brother who lived in Thailand for a couple of years. So I started going to Southeast Asia. I hit Thailand, Cambodia, and also Japan. And recently I've gone to Africa and South America just once, but mainly Europe and Southeast Asia.

N: How has being a social studies teacher with European origins influenced where you've gone?

OSTERKAMP: Unfortunately, the focus of history is on European history and its impacts on the United States. So I had grown up in history books reading about England and France, etc. I have family members in Netherlands. And so my first trip through Europe, I made sure I wanted to go to Netherlands in addition to England. England, Germany, and the Netherlands were the main focus on my first trip through Europe.

N: What did you learn about the culture and your family history from visiting?

OSTERKAMP: I was lucky. I had a cousin who was still living there. And then I had a great uncle that still lived there. So actually, that was from my grandmother's side. From my dad's grandparents side, that family tree disappeared. We're not quite sure what happened. But the other side just learned about their background, what they did. I know some of my, most of my ancestors were involved in farming. That was the big one. And what brought them to America was the chance to have their own farms. But that started back in the Netherlands.

N: Most of my family from Vietnam came to San Jose, so I was more in touch with them. But my Mexican side...I barely know anything except that my grandma's from Texas. So I'm wondering what can you learn from visiting the country your family came from?

OSTERKAMP: It just feels like more knowledge about where we do come from. And there's just some comfort, I guess we've already used that. You know, it's a bit more your family history about, you know, what did they do? Especially my grandparents, what triggered them to come to the United States. It wasn't so much because they didn't like Netherlands, it's just the oldest brother got the land in Netherlands, so in order to get land they came over. So culturally, it just gives you some idea. In the foods we growing up, we always had meat and potatoes. Why? Because that's what they grew up with eating in Netherlands and in Ireland for that matter. So you learn a little bit about religion, you know, we grew up, both of my parents were the same religion based upon the countries they grew up in. So it impacted me culturally, my religious beliefs, my choice of food. Even the fact of the college education; my grandmother from Netherlands was one of the first females to get a history degree. It was very uncommon back then for females to have a college degree at all, so it just kind of, maybe that's where my interest in history kind of came from, from the fact that she was one of the first females to get that. You just learn a little about yourself, who you are, and where you came from.

N: When did you first started traveling?

OSTERKAMP: I was lucky that my very first major trip was actually with my brother. We went across the US. That was the year before I started teaching. So the summer of. We used to take trips up the Idaho to visit family. That was our big family trips growing up. So the first major trip outside of that was my brother and I drove across the US. It was about a day trip. The first trip overseas was in the summer of And I went over to Europe, started in England. I said Germany, Netherlands, France was the best out one.

As a person that struggles to speak foreign languages, it was nice to start in England because you kind of get there's not a communication barrier. So I would kind of recommend maybe that for many people Europe because there's just a little bit more comfort level between the cultures. Southeast Asia countries in particular are quite drastically different in culture. So once you get a bit more experience, it's a little bit easier to travel into there. But Europe is a lot more expensive. You can probably travel through Southeast Asia at half the cost of going through Europe. So it depends on your financial situation and as we talked earlier about your cultural background, where you would start.

N: Traveling to Europe would seem out of touch to me—except for a France, I have a great-great-grandmother from there. And I wouldn't be able to replicate the customs in Vietnam. I'd stand out as a half Vietnamese, half Mexican individual.

OSTERKAMP: Vietnam was great though. I was just there last summer. We were staying in a really nice hotel. I mean, it was an upper, upper restaurant, but it was a

very nice hotel. It was a night or so, and you can go even cheaper than that. And especially if you're traveling with somebody, you can't beat the price of the hotels and food.

N: NOEY: Have you experienced privilege compared to the citizens from outside of America?

OSTERKAMP: I've been lucky. I'm in mainly tourist areas, and they've always treated me well. Locals have a mixed reaction for foreigners. Some of the locals they like Americans. Others say we're too loud or up front. But I've had really good experiences. Sometimes there's different cultures like waiters in Italy and France. They don't keep coming by your table. They really leave you alone. So some people take that all they're being rude. It's just the way that it works there. But for the most part, I've been really lucky. And the people I've run into have had really good experiences.

There's a lot of people who are angry towards the U.S. right now with the trade, so I am kind of curious what the reaction will be this summer and this upcoming winter when I travel. I don't think it will be hostile, but a little more cold instead of wanting to talk. One more thing is that I remember talking to a waitress in Cambodia. I felt bad because I was talking about some of some of my trips. And she said, 'Oh boy, she'll never be able to travel like that.' And so I do realize how lucky I am to be able to take the trips that I do with my standard of living and being able to afford these trips. And in America, the passport gets you into a lot of countries. So I do appreciate and realize how lucky I am to be able to travel like I do.

N: How does tourism boost other country's economy and how do immigrants coming into America affect ours?

OSTERKAMP: Many of the parts are dependent upon tourism. Now, Spain's having a big issue. There have been a lot of protest against tourists, but it is split within their countries. When you have a percent of your economy based upon tourism, you have a lot of jobs in that. But in the other hand, there is drawbacks. When you're in Vienna, for instance, and all of a sudden the cruise ships come in and you have people wandering your streets, I can understand why locals get frustrated and irritated by that. So it really has been a love-hate relationship that the importance of tourism to many countries, but there are some negatives that go with them. A lot of the housing is being taken up by Airbnb instead of the locals, so there are those drawbacks.

As far as America, we're seeing a lot of Canadians are not coming and traveling here. The last estimate I heard is that we're down by like billion dollars in tourist money being spent here. I just think about the food that immigrants bring with them, how important that is. I mean, it's incredible in the U.S. just the sheer amount of food that we can eat, almost any ethnicity. And it's usually pretty good quality food. I had Mexican food in England. Don't recommend it. It was pretty bad. So even for the U.S. or San Francisco, they haven't recovered yet from the lack of travel. Tourism is very beneficial for many parts of the country, but on the other hand, it does bring higher costs for the locals. And the crowds and that type of issues could be a lot of problems.

N: How have your experiences while traveling shifted your understanding of other people?

By traveling you do have a greater respect for other cultures. You understand there's different foods. There's different styles of dress. And it doesn't make one right or one wrong. It's just different. And so you're a lot more accepting of other cultures.

On the side note, I am much more likely to help somebody who seems lost. I haven't been lost in many cities, but having locals stop and ask me if they could help is really helpful. So if I notice somebody trying to figure out on a map or on their phone where they're going, I will stop and help them because I've experienced that in travel. There was one time when I couldn't find my hotel. I was in Netherlands and I was walking around this block—this was a time before Google Maps. It took me about two hours to find, and luckily a couple of locals kind of took me under their wings and finally got me to my hotel. So I really was appreciative of that.

N: What can people learn from traveling abroad?

OSTERKAMP: The big thing about traveling is the new experiences. One of the reasons why I travel is that for many days a year, I leave my condo, I drive to Mt Pleasant, same road, you see the same thing. By going out and experiencing different cultures, different life styles, different sights—America is beautiful. We have landscape, we have cities. But other countries are every bit as beautiful. It's really beneficial to each person to experience different cultures. It's an eye-opening experience. A lot of times we might have a negative opinion over a certain culture or group. And then you go and you realize, "Okay, these are people too. They have the same issues, same thoughts, same happiness that all cultures have." So I really do believe that traveling is an eye-opening experience that makes you more receptive to other cultures and makes you appreciate your own. It's beneficial to the human race to have more people travel and experience other cultures. ■

SAN JOSE

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MT. PLEASANT CENTER
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UNLEADED PLUS 89
PREMIUM UNLEADED 91

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SMOG CHECK STATION
STAR
DIESEL
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ANT CENTER

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RIGHT
TURN
ONLY
CAT

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Chùa Đại Nhật Như Lai
CUNG NGHINH CHƯ TÔN GIÁO PHẨM
CHÙA ĐẠI NHẬT NHƯ LAI

SPEED
LIMIT
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Mt Herman
BIKE ROUTE

White Rd

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FAST MART
DRINKS
GROCERY
&
FOOD
EBT

PEPSI
ICE

FREE

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La Princesa Market

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INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR
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NO PARKING
RENT ME
STARTING AT $29
53224

Click. I take the shot. Just came rolling uphill from Mt Pleasant High School. I went to the shopping center at *White and Story* back then in December, but I decided to go further to *Grand Century Mall*. Go back an hour; I was getting flicks of residentials 'cause the *SAN JOSE TRIP* required nostalgia; therefore, I cruised through the East Side from Evergreen to Alum Rock. Land owners don't mind the skies with satellites and three-hundred-sixty-degree cameras driving through their plots, so *why focus me? I'm just one guy*...

Pine—the house is bloody brown with all its wood exposed. The crevices creep into the dirt and perked my interest for photos. The panorama stikes with detail, pointed as a thong. The barbecued home, although rotted, still brought the neighbor's interest though, so he asked me, "What are you taking the photographs for?" I replied with a bat, misfired back with 'I just think it's cool, there's nothing wrong with that. It's my neighborhood, I want the photos for myself.'But he still sways, "Be careful. People don't like having their homes photographed," and goes up the road while I skate downhill past *Mt Rainier Dr* towards *Mt Blanc.*

Man—displayed colossal: giant belly, baggy shorts. *Why's he here again?* I thought while his head grew eyeballs darting back towards my camera; *why'd he walk past down White Rd to turn around and tread some more? Wouldn't you hit the gym? This is a busy streets with stoplights lasting whole minutes.* As I cruise while taking flicks, the corner marks the journey mid: *Mt Pleasant Center* along *White and Story*—spot graffiti. Roughen sidewalks make the wheels wobble.

Workers plot cement on sheets above the sidewalk; *get off the skateboard. Plant your feet on the road with cones that tip with a gentle smack.* Turn my head to *Story Rd*. Cars swerve into my section. Pray that they're not on their phones. Recognize the *Home Depot*. Have you had the feeling when you're in the zone? And the sense of self is lost—the camera frames between my eyes. Enclosed within two by three, blackness shapes reality. Stop the light; claim the view. That putrid smell—

Don't take the photo, alarm that there's clearly the smell of death. As I approach the gap in the wall with bottles, the rank overwhelms my nostrils. Nonetheless, the camera calls me to click what perks my interest. As I inch to the wall, the alarms flare my sight and the camera turns to the depot instead.

Click. I take the shot. Just came rolling uphill from Mt Pleasant High School. I spot vans aligned in uniform with the *Home Depot* brand, and I stand open where the carts bump on yellow. As I prepare to go, a Chicano skinny man steps to my direction and *greets* with Español. His face creased with lines while his voice growled to Mickey's pitch. As I smirk at the joke. His hand *twists* and *dips low.* Then transforms to the *West sign*—

Pits in my stomach, drops in my lip, *I should have never smiled now he knows I'm not from here.* I plant my board as his back turns—*remove self from the area, bangers have eyes on you!* Speeding down Story Rd, watching out for eyes, turning at Mt Pleasant Center for one last photo of the plaza in its entirety. *I've been here before; it's my community*. Enters a car as I'm about to leave. He swerves within arm's reach of slamming into me. He speaks the words, "Fool I've seen you."—*And what, am I not safe anywhere?*

Speeds down *White Rd*. The pit. *Larger*. The man that treads—*they set him here!* The size. Of eyes. Stalking. Darting. Following. *Unless my camera is gone! Put it out! Stomp on it! Take the disc! And snap it! Throw it out! Throw your board! Till the pit is no more! Take your eyes! Stomp them out! Throw the pit!* ***Throw the pit!*** Text your dad! *Ask for help!* Spot the *Walgreens*. Buy Kombucha. Ask to drink it there. Thank the cashier. Sip it slowly. Lower your heat. *Make sure no eyes are watching you!* Speeds down *White Rd*. Stop for Yogurt. Eat it in the store. Text your dad some more! Melt it slowly. *Lower your heat!* Take the backroads. Hide at a store. *Were these worth it?* ***Were these worth it?*** Take the mainroad. *You're almost home!—Make sure no eyes are watching you!* Slide the gate open. ■

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025, 2:50–5:00pm

Paul

@incogneezee

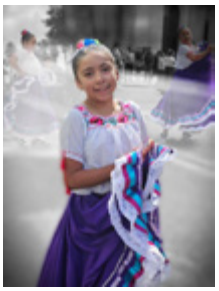
King of the Streets

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

PAUL: My name is Paul Vanzuela, I was born and raised in San Jose, California.

N: How did you start taking footage of the lowriders and other San Jose events?

PAUL: I started with my daughter who was 10 years old. About two years ago she started dancing folklórico, and we were invited to a lowrider event with her dance. Ever since then, I would take pictures and we enjoyed the music together, so that was kind of our thing we did together—my daughter, Catalia.



N: Our school has a folklórico club too, and I see them going to events through their posts. Was your daughter a part of school or was it an organization outside of it?

PAUL: She was a part of her school, River Glen Elementary, on the west side. We would be invited to Viva Calle, and she was a part of the Cinco de Mayo Parade last year in 2024 with her school.

N: How has taking photographs at the events led to opportunities and new connections?

PAUL: It was actually a big accident. I started editing, I started doing reels that really got a lot of attention. And now it got me to the point where I'm a part of the San Jose King of Street coming up August 10th. I'm going to be in control of media and inviting people from all over California and out-of-state car hoppers. It's a passion hobby.

We're going to first reach out to anybody outside of San Jose and invite them. And the farther you are, the better. We'll be giving them media passes for sure for inside the hop event. The local ones are going to get media passes as well. We're getting the ones that are farther away first and combine everybody else there at the event—as well as the junior photographers. I don't mean the really, really young—I mean, teenage—but the junior ones, the ones that are holding their dad's cameras. We're going to set up an area for them where they can be secure and nobody in front of them. And then the ones that are older and can watch themselves, they'll be inside the hip hop pit.

N: And what equipment are you using?

PAUL: That's top secret.

No, I use my phone. I actually started with my phone and I was going to get cameras. I did get one from a good friend, but my style is straight from my phone and my editing. I just use different apps to do everything I do. Something that used to take me hours on one video—now it'll

take me about 15 minutes.

N: How does the iPhone enables you to do what the camera cannot?

PAUL: I'm actually using a *Samsung* phone, but it's easier to edit right there on the spot. It's lighter, and I can take shots faster. I don't have to take up as much storage. But yeah, it's easier for me. When I did try using the camera, it is heavier. I have to wait for that perfect angle, but my phone is way better—for me.

N: Do you also create videos for the New Hope program?

PAUL: Yes, I do. I do their new official Instagram. I take pictures or they'll send me theirs, and I'll create stuff for them—holiday stuff, events. For New Hope, it's mainly school-based. Then when we go outside and do pro-socials, I'll take pictures there as well.

N: What events are New Hope planning?

PAUL: New Hope this summer will be having pro social shows with the students from the schools that we work at—all the schools in the East Side Union District, as well as the ones our street outreach team works with. During the summer, we will be outside campuses, but during summer school, we will be here some days and some days we'll be here to have pro-socials on campus for you guys.

N: NOEY: How did you start at New Hope?

PAUL: We're contracted through the district. New Hope was founded to help kids, advocate, mentor, and just be here. Just be there—see them where they're at, talk to them, and motivate them to move forward and give them options that we never had as kids. We work with families as well—with house visits, planning pro-socials with them, taking them to a dinner. Just showing up for the youth.

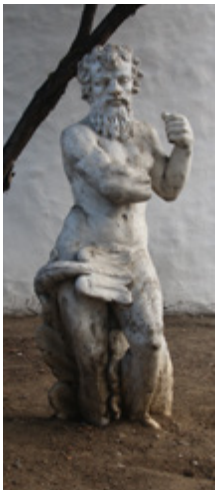
N: How has showing up impacted the youth?

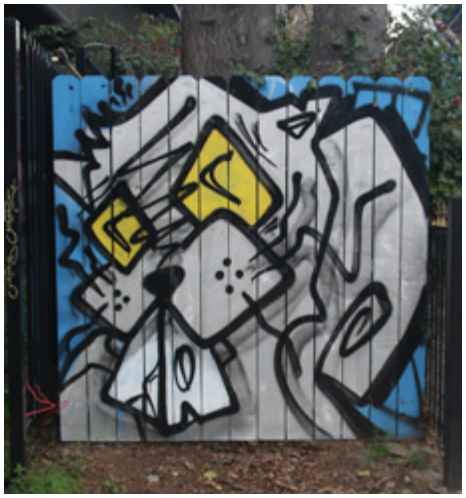
PAUL: Since I've been here, we've really motivated these kids to start things new, tapped into their talents—letting them know that they have talents. And they can reach their goals, you know, just like you. I opened up that door for you just to show up—and you showed up. So we're just trying to get these kids to know they have talent and to work on it.

How has meeting with the younger generation made change for you?

PAUL: It's helped me with myself as a father. It's helped me as a better brother and family member—to be open and to realize that not everybody is ready at the moment that you come to them. And it's helped me realize the bigger picture in people's lives. ■

FAIRGROUNDS





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SAN JOSE POLICE

HEADSPACE
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Noey: After leaving SJSU for a local event, I was scheduled to go to a different award ceremony only ten minutes away by car. I called my mom to ask for an Uber, but she was "busy" and my app wasn't working at the time. So I thought, *it's only a few extra minutes*, and I snagged the opportunity to capture street photography as I strolled by the Fairgrounds.

N: The sidewalk pavement was filled with cracks and the buildings faded into grays. My eyes, offset by the East Side's natural evergreens, focused keenly on the scenery.

N: I never considered the warnings. The barbed wire fences. The writing on the vans. The police sirens. Five minutes in—a car stopped at a red light called to me,

%: "What're you taking photos of?

N: "Just this view past the fence."

%: "What camera do you have?"

N: "I got a Canon 7D Mark II."

%: "Ayyy, my brother's also got a Canon."

The light turns green.

N: "Ight, you have a good one bro!" I told him.

And as he leaves, the backseat passenger faces me—and flashes the West sign...

N: I didn't think anything of it; after all, I wasn't doing anything major. Ten minutes in—I was halfway across Second St when I heard an—

#: "AAAAAHHHHHHHH!!#!.. ." from the left of the road.

N: *Dang*, I thought, *I really should have put on a different outfit*; after all, my tight-fit jeans must've made them think I was a square. But these jeans were no reason to harm me, so I kept on without taking a glance. Fifteen minutes in—a homeless lady gets off her bike and starts talking to me, rapidly.

■: "Did you hear about that hate crime?"

N: "What do you mean?"

■: "Over there by the Vietnamese church! Just yesterday someone exploded a bomb in front of the building,"

N: "What the heck."

■: "Yeah, it's over here!" she directed,

I went ahead and followed since they mentioned the church was Vietnamese.

,,,
,,,
,
,,

■: “The building was already fixed from the explosion, but these leaves still haven’t grown back! Take a picture,”

■: “There’s squatters living inside the building from the explosion, I can come in and show you,”

,,,

■: “Are you a college student at SJSU? You just came from that direction,”

N: “Yeah, I just finished class and decided to take photos on the way.”

■: “What are the photos for?”

N: “They’re for personal use. I’ve been going around San Jose taking photos for my magazines.”

■: “I used to be an English major, but then I got into drugs, and now I’m homeless,” She kept on further,,,

■: “Do you have a business card?”

N: “Nah, but my IG’s @ripperchassis.” I grabbed a piece of paper from my sketchbook, tore it, and wrote down my user.

■: “I don’t got a phone,” she said,

I realized that I had copies of the *NYC TRIP* that I brought for the event and grabbed a copy out of my bag as well. As I handed the magazine to her, she remarked,

■: “You must be pretty wealthy to be able to print these,”

But upon noticing the cover, her smile shifted,

■: “I thought you were taking these photos for the city,” She looked through more of the spreads,,,

■: “Heh.”

N: “What part made you laugh?” I asked.

■: “What it do, the part with the bird,”

The lady kept viewing the pages, and she kept smiling, as if she was back to her English writing days.

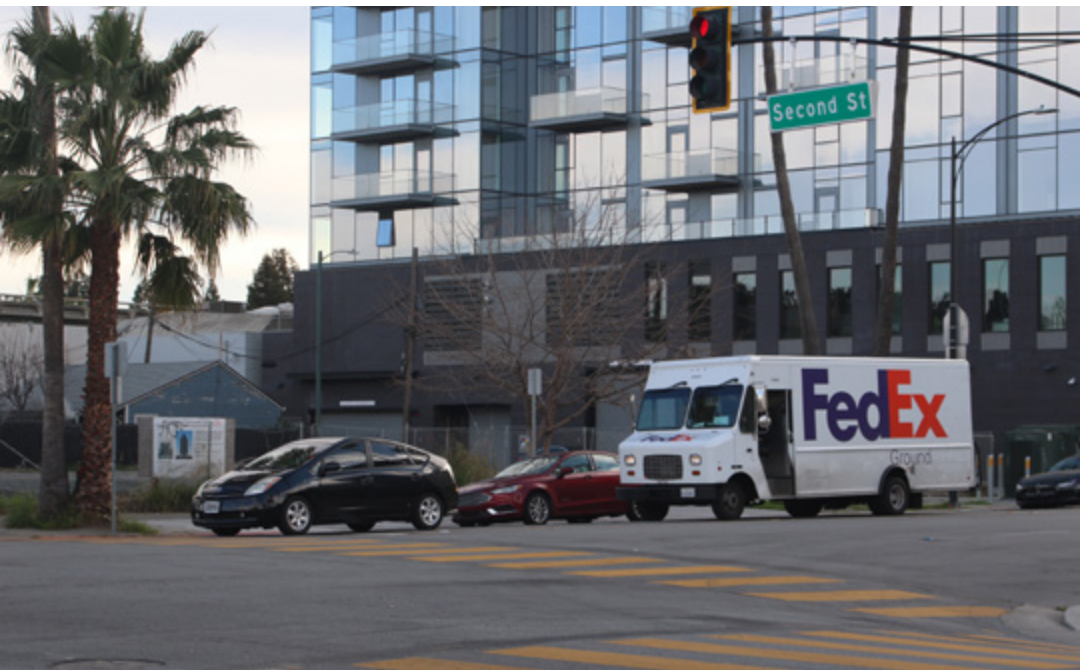
N: I told her,

“There’s only fifteen copies that were printed, and I want you to have this one because you seem to appreciate it much *more* than the kids on campus...”

She left on her bike with the magazine in hand.

Noey: There‘s no way I could’ve ran if she robbed me—I was carrying a whole frickin’ camera across my neck and an iPad in my bag too! Overall, my experience with the homeless people who *aren’t* actively tripping has been chill. Then again, I’m never coming to the Fairgrounds while alone anymore. ■

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
PASSING


Second St
FedEx

PARKING

Instagram: @kashekloset_
Depop: Kashezkloset

I sell thrifted gems that range from $2 to $50

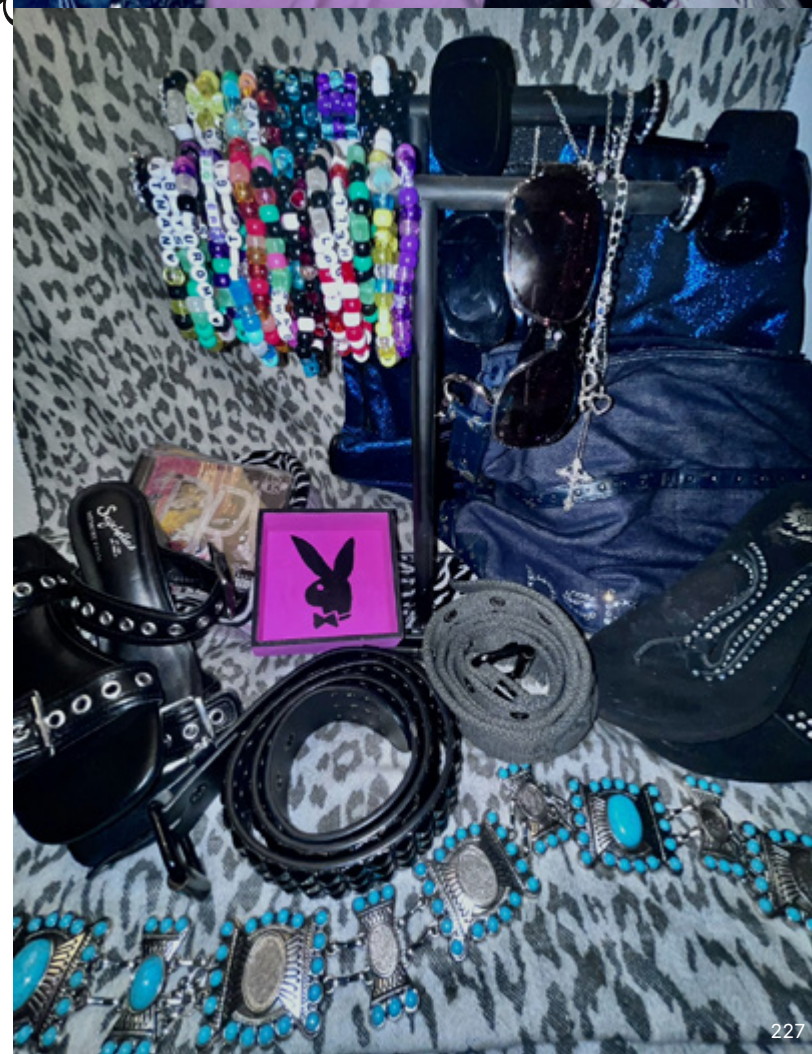
Pickup & drop off in San Jose and mailing services around the U.S. but not worldwide

Delivery ETA is fast, asap

I also sell handmade "Kandi" a form of jewelry w/ pony beads and charms often used at raves, $5 each

Coming soon: hand sewn new items like bags and tops.

KASHEZKLOSET_



Disclaimer: I felt that this was important enough to address since I'm not native to the upper East Side nor do I often visit downtown—I wrote "my neighborhood" in the Mt Pleasant Center section because I went to school there, not because of where I live. Although these stories are authentic, they are from only my perspective and do not represent the entirety of these areas. These are specific situations where an individual takes photographs of an area they're not familiar with and would easily change if I was passing by on my skateboard, with a friend, or discreet with camera to begin with.

Additionally, if you're in an unfamiliar place and something feels wrong, just straight up leave. Life is the greatest treasure, and listening to your *gut* feeling by leaving or finding refuge immediately outweighs any benefit or reward gained by going or staying there. Tell someone you trust where you are. I texted my dad while in the Walgreens—mostly for relief. He was my lifeblood in the case I became an actual target. If you need to use the phone or find directions, stop by a business you recognize or one with lots of traffic because standing by the side of a road could lead to the unwanted interactions that the *gut* is alarming of. Also be aware of the time of day. As night approaches, even an hour after school, an area's risk may increase significantly.

Again, these are anacdotes of a much larger community—they are not meant to represent the East Side and homeless people as dangerous. Only form an opinion after proper, due dilligence. I felt completely safe while at Mt Pleasant. The risk came from approaching a notorious hotspot for crime, *King and Story*—which is miles away from my school—and photographing an area while others consider it obstructive or intrusive.

Alright, back to the magazine:

NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

OLGUIN: My name is Blaise A. Olguin and I'm from East San Jose.

N: How did you get into poetry?

OLGUIN: I started in high school. When I was thirteen, I had to deal with a lot of family tragedy. So I bounced around and I ended up in Merced, believe it or not. I don't have any family in Merced. But somehow I ended up there living with my dad. And I loved hip-hop. I still love hip-hop, and I gravitated towards rhyming. So I was just trying to express myself and deal with the sorrow and the hurt that I was going through at that time, and those led to me writing poetry.

N: Did you ever rap freestyle at an open mic?

OLGUIN: I did rap a little, you know, like with the homies. I freestyled here and there. I went to Mt Pleasant. I went here, I'm sitting here. So at that time, yeah, I did rap a little bit, but to me, I was writing poetry.

N: How come you kept with it from like since you were in high school?

OLGUIN: I think it became eventually part of who I am, and I think internally I have a great desire just to create. I know as humans, we are used to and conditioned to consume, consume, consume. But what I love about poetry is that I'm producing something. And when I'm writing, it gives me a type of fulfillment that not a lot of things give me in this world. But writing poetry does.

N: What was the process for writing your book, *Exit Ticket*?

OLGUIN: We are conditioned where we just want to consume. And I think it's easy. It's easy just to sit back when you're home and just be on your phone. We have screens everywhere? And I'm not suggesting that I don't do these things. I definitely partake in being on my phone and watching TV. It's almost like how we cope. If I'm at a rough day, I might just want to veg out and just be on my phone or just watch TV. But again, these don't really fulfill us. When we create something, whether it's music or art, painting, poetry—the things that bring us peace—that's when we feel fulfillment.

Sometimes when you have a desire to create, it can feel laborious. You know, it can feel like a job. When I put that book together. But sometimes you just have to remind yourself, "Okay, why do I want to write poetry?" It's like, "Hey, you love poetry. It brings you X, Y and Z," right? So just do it. It takes discipline too even though you're doing something that you enjoy and that you love

N: Why is writing worth it to you?

OLGUIN: Part of it is just having a goal and me telling people that I was going to do it, you know. I wasn't always this way, but if I say I'm going to do something—even if it's just to myself—then I want to do it. I've been writing poetry for around thirty years, right? Yeah, I'm aging myself right now. To me, it's a culmination of all that writing for that many years. It's hope, it's all my dreams, all my fears, everything negative and positive that I've gone through. So I feel that I had to do it. I had to finish that book. I had to write that. And even sometimes, I have it near my door. It's on this wooden thing, like an old TV stand. But I have it there, and I see it every day. Sometimes I actually pause. It's been out for four or five months now. When I pause and actually look at it, I just get this sense of joy internally

because I just think it turned out way better than I expected.

N: What is the book about?

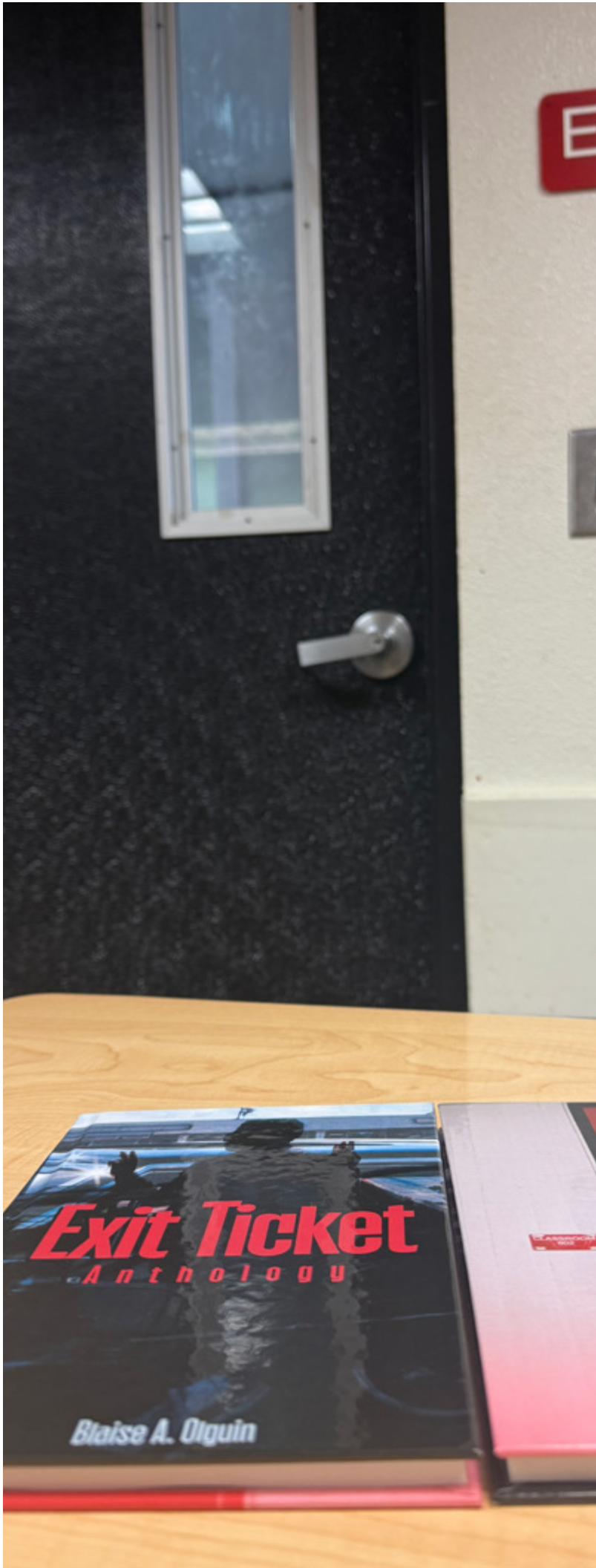
OLGUIN: I intended to make it thematic. It's called *Exit Ticket*. It ties into how I'm a teacher, but it's also an anthology—basically a collection of my poems from the last four years or so. When I formatted which poems I wanted and where, I put them almost to tell a story within the story. And there are fill-in-the-blanks reflection questions that I put in there as pauses. So it all ties into an exit ticket that you might give as a teacher, but also what happens when we potentially pass away or die. I know that sounds a little morbid, but it ends with me questioning what happens and suggesting what I want to happen after life.

N: What do you believe will happen after everything ends?

OLGUIN: In the last poem that's in the book, it talks about what I want heaven to be like; that ties into the tragedy that I went through as a kid. So again, I talk about what I want it to look like and who I want to see when I'm in heaven. I hope and believe that heaven is real. And I want to hope and believe that I will see the person that I love most and that's been missing from my life the most since I was a teenager. And ultimately, I think a lot of my success is driven by honoring that particular person with me, pursuing the things that I want. And it's been— I don't want to say always because I've failed a lot in my life and dropped out of high school. But as an adult, I'll say, it's been a driving force that has pushed me. And like you were talking about what pushes you to do more than only consume, that has definitely been a motivation and a driving force just to honor that person.

N: How can people who're going through a tough time move forward?

OLGUIN: Everyone grieves differently. They talk about the seven stages of grief and whatnot. The way I dealt with it was clinging to and relying on family. You know, I lived with my grandma after that certain situation, and she kind of raised me. And that's when I was coming here to Mt Pleasant at around fourteen, and she prayed a lot. She prayed a lot for me. So I would just say, leaning on family and leaning on prayer. But again, that's just me. ■



AP LITERATURE

ACTIVITIES
Make creative projects and understand themes!

INSIGHTS
Understand how social movements affect our lives!

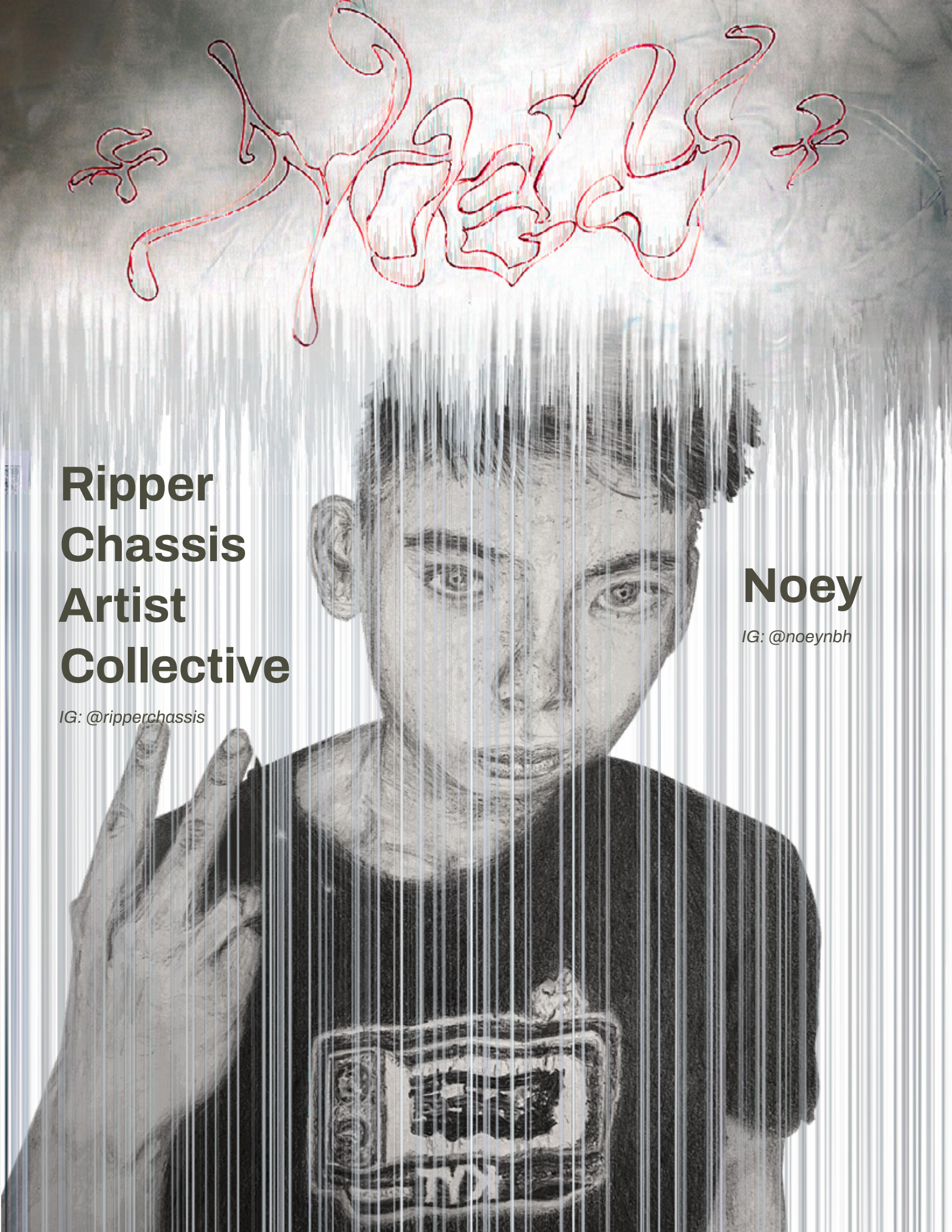
COLLEGE
Raise GPA for college!

PERSONAL
Transform your everyday reflections into poetic gold!

Contact siscor@esuhsd.org, IG:@ms._sisco | Rm 807 | AP Literature and Composition | Design By Noey @ripperchassi

ART

NOEY | MIKANIE | LONESAINT.TTT | MELANIE | DOWNTOWN DOORS

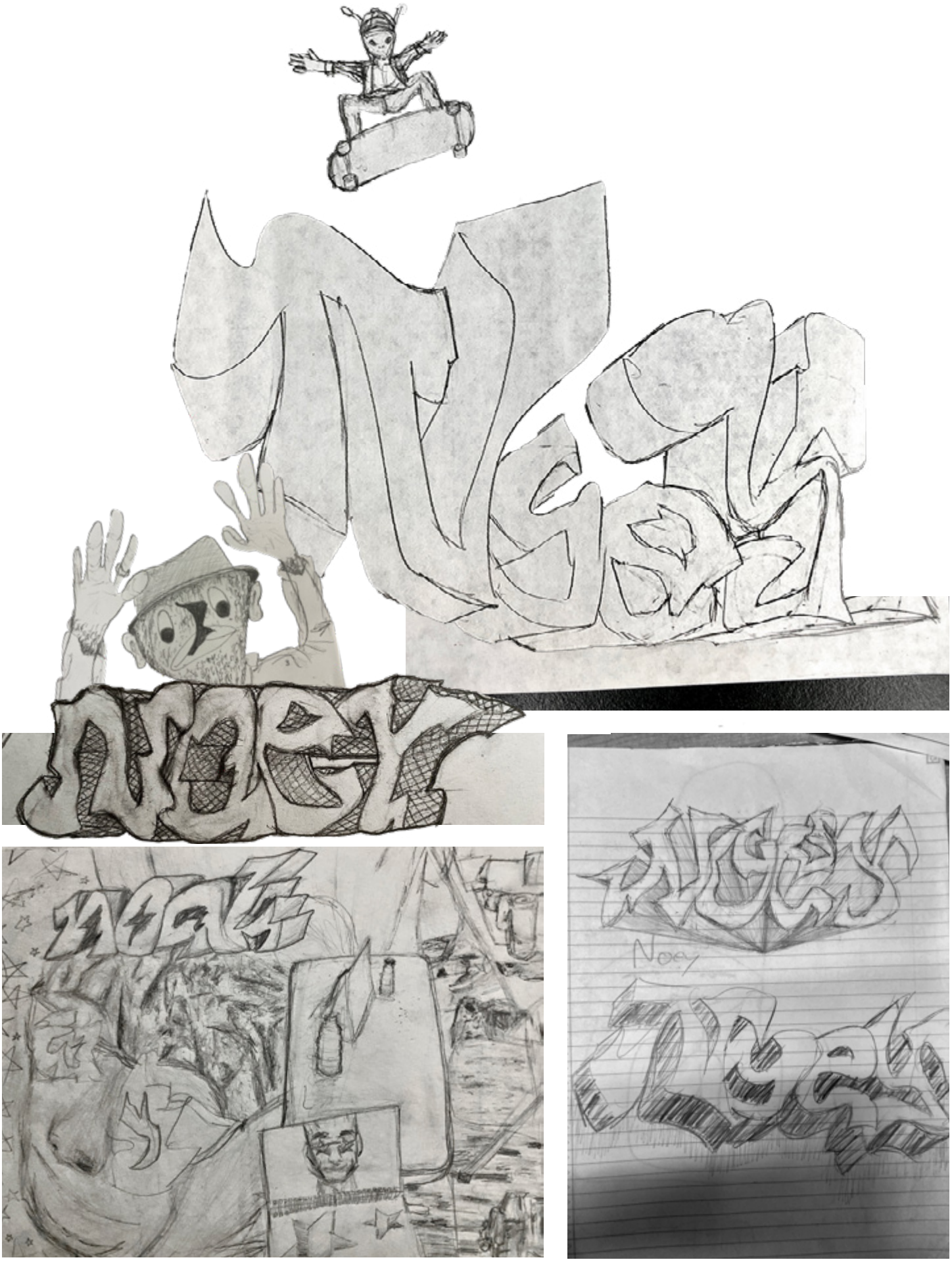


Ripper Chassis Artist Collective

IG: @ripperchassis

Noey

IG: @noeynbh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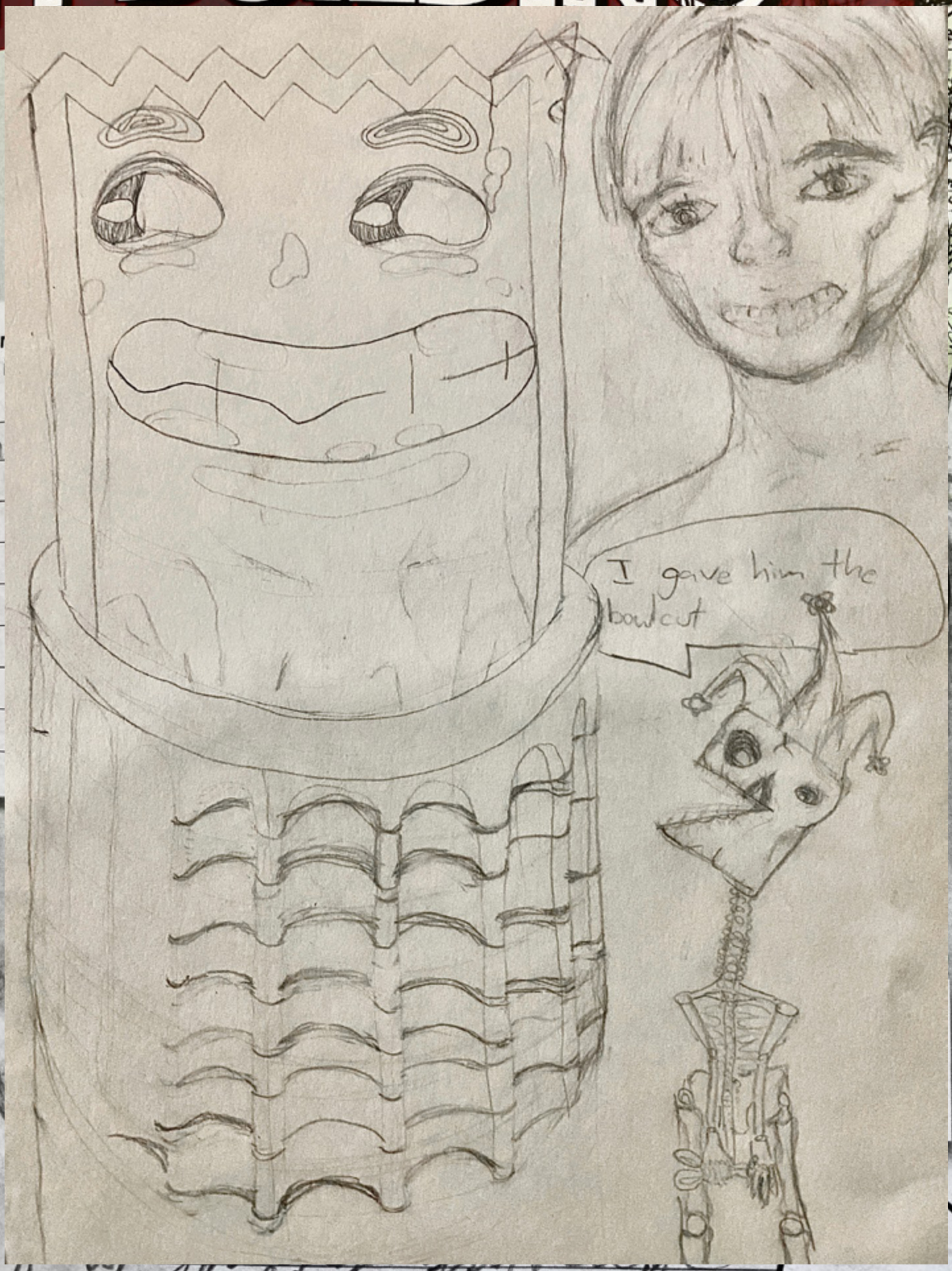
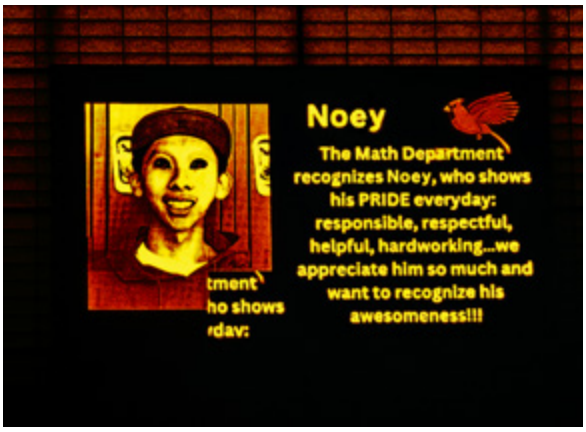
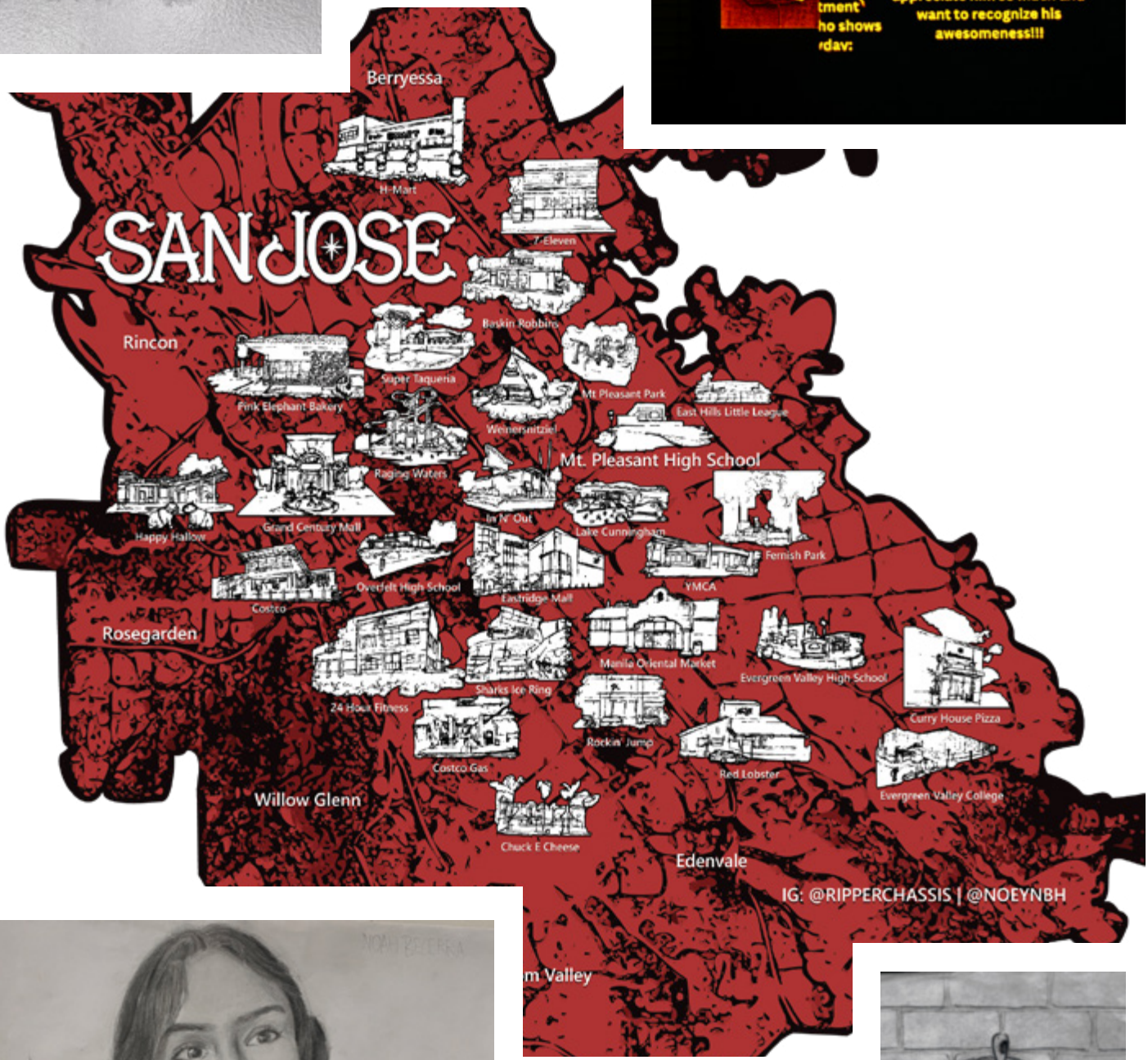

I gave him the
bowlcut

END


Noey
The Math Department recognizes Noey, who shows his PRIDE everyday: responsible, respectful, helpful, hardworking...we appreciate him so much and want to recognize his awesomeness!!!


SAN JOSE
Berryessa
H-Mart
7-Eleven
Baskin Robbins
Rincon
Super Taqueria
Pink Elephant Bakery
Mt Pleasant Park
East Hills Little League
Weinersnitzel
Mt. Pleasant High School
Raging Waters
In N' Out
Happy Hallow
Grand Century Mall
Lake Cunningham
Fernish Park
YMCA
Costco
Overfelt High School
Eastridge Mall
Rosegarden
Manila Oriental Market
Evergreen Valley High School
Shasks Ice Ring
24 Hour Fitness
Curry House Pizza
Rockin' Jump
Costco Gas
Red Lobster
Evergreen Valley College
Willow Glenn
Chuck E Cheese
Edenvale
IG: @RIPPERCHASSIS | @NOEYNBH
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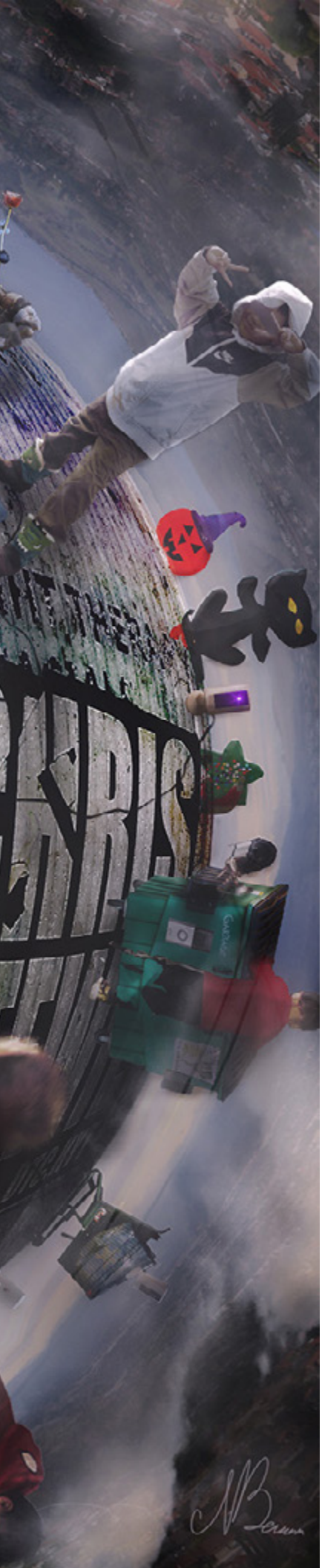
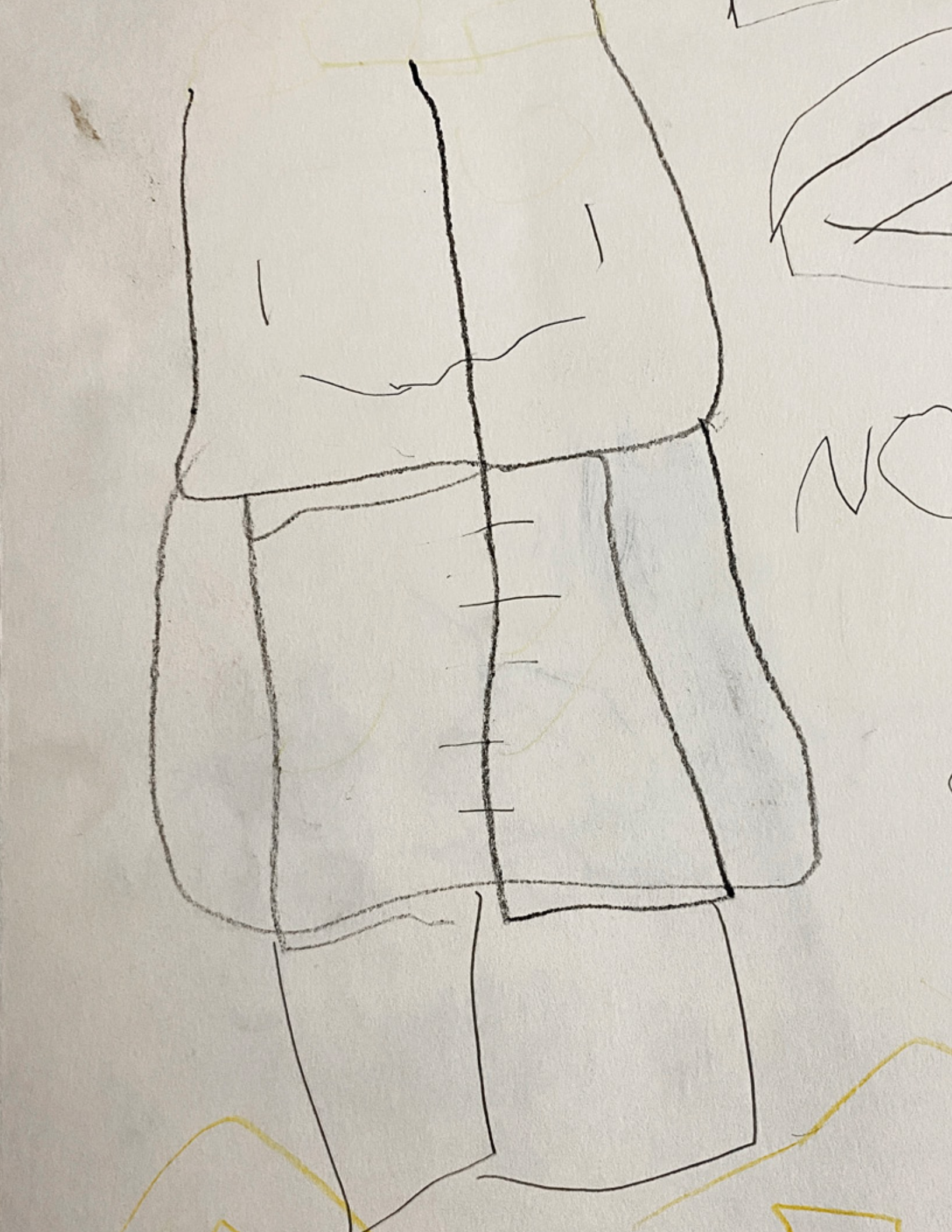
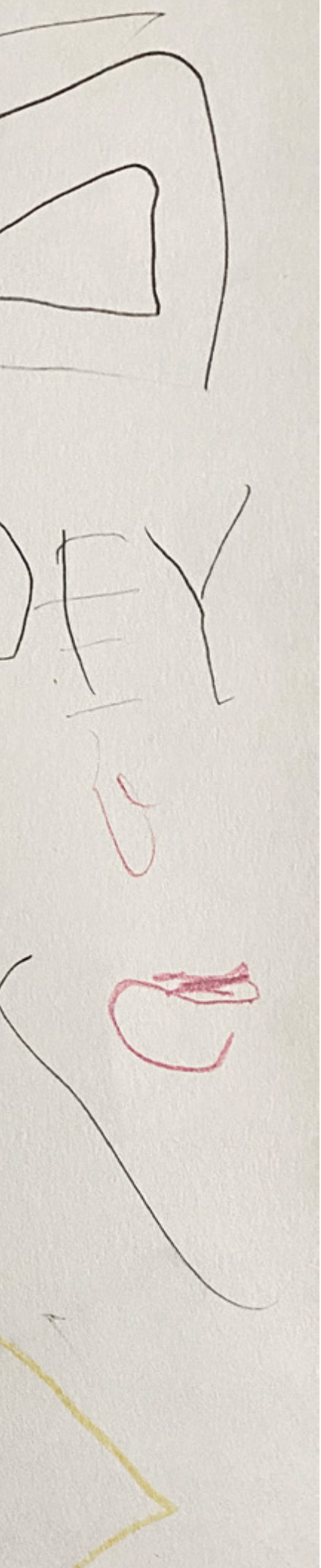


Monitor

Noey's submission to the New Museum Los Gatos "NUMU" 2025 Art Now contest. *rotate your screen

https://www.numulosgatos.org/artnow-archive

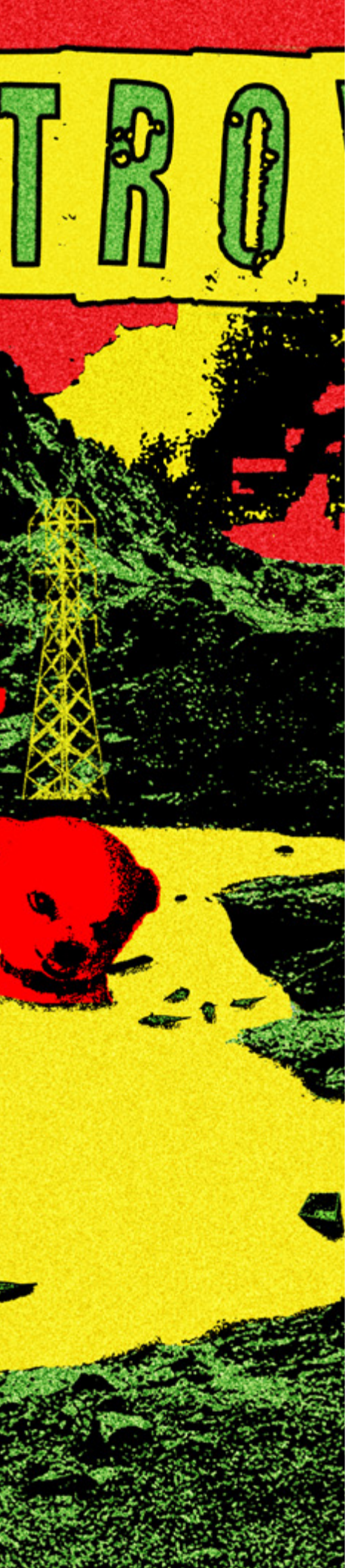




Roblox

My brother wanted this here.

LIUTION DES



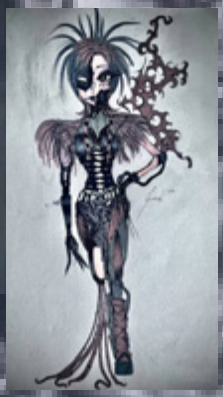
Pollution Destroys

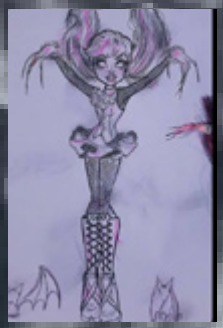
Displayed in the Environmental Ripperchassis Art Exhibit during the three-day run of the *CLUE* play.

IG: @mphs.environmental

MIKANIE

@KASHKANI3





Alcohol marker sketchbook

VECTORS

Vectorized by Noey @ripperchassis

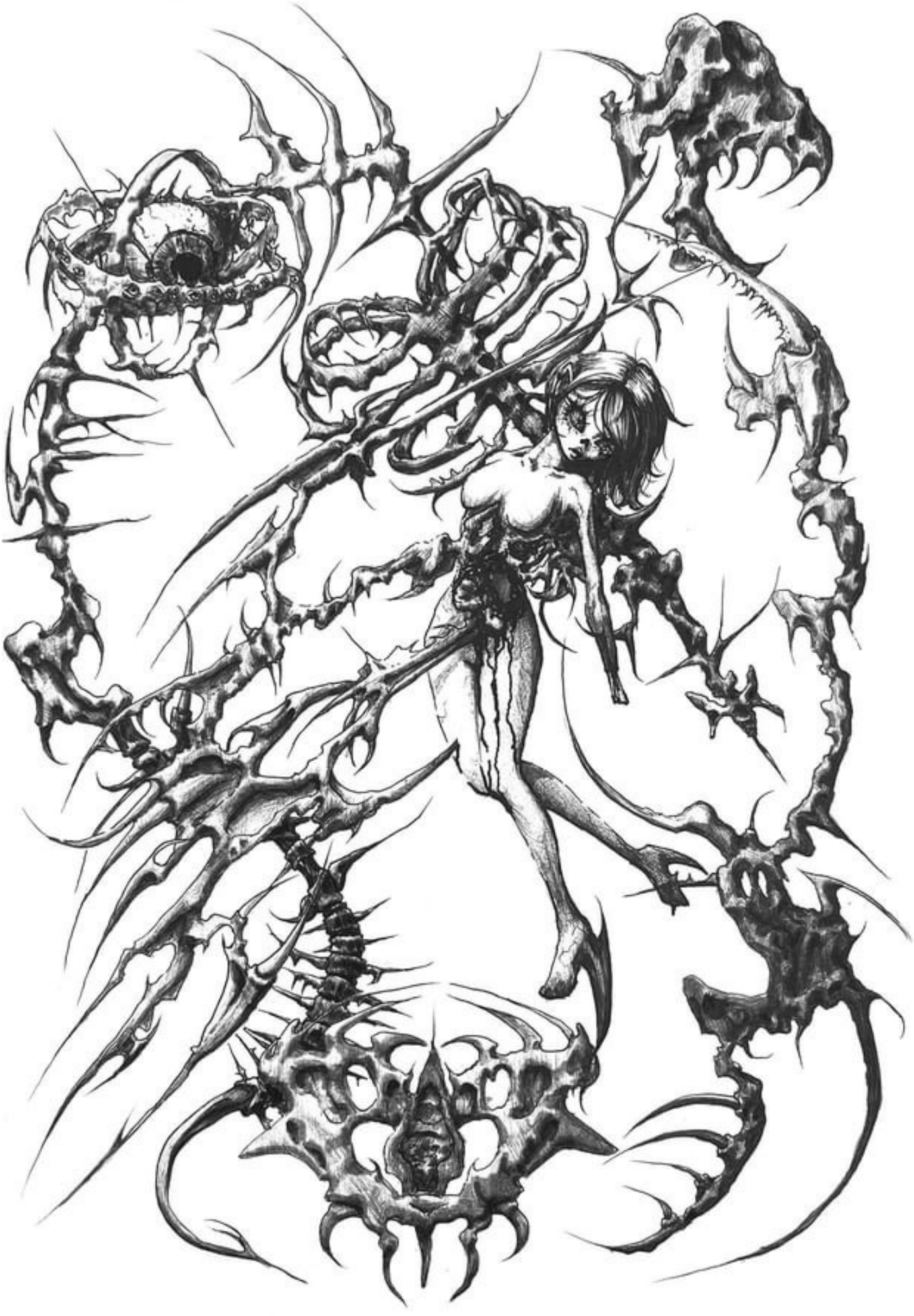
NY
Rep Your Team

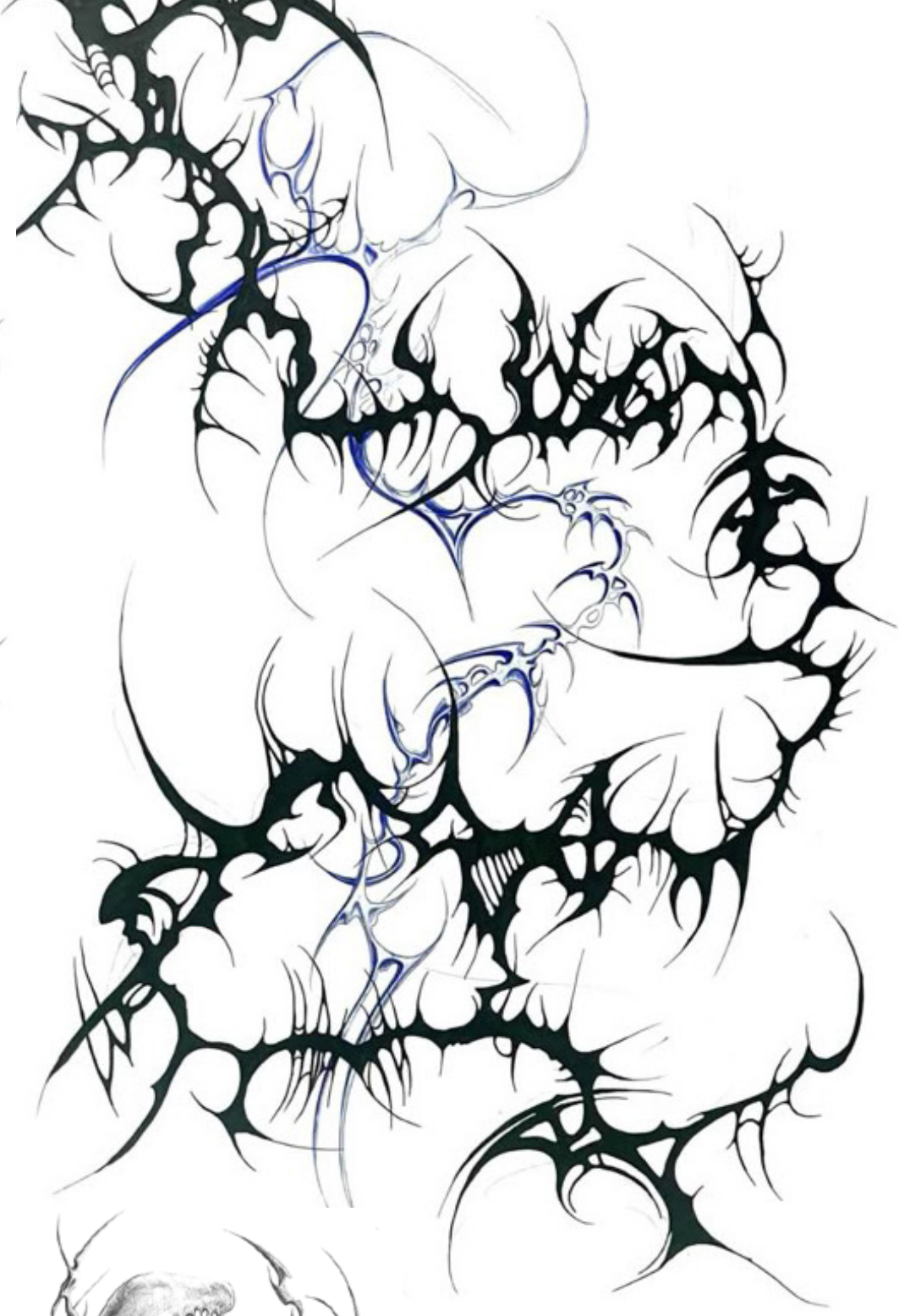
Mikanie Inks!!!

Dm @kashkani3 for consultation

LONESAINT.TTT

on Instagram & Pinterest



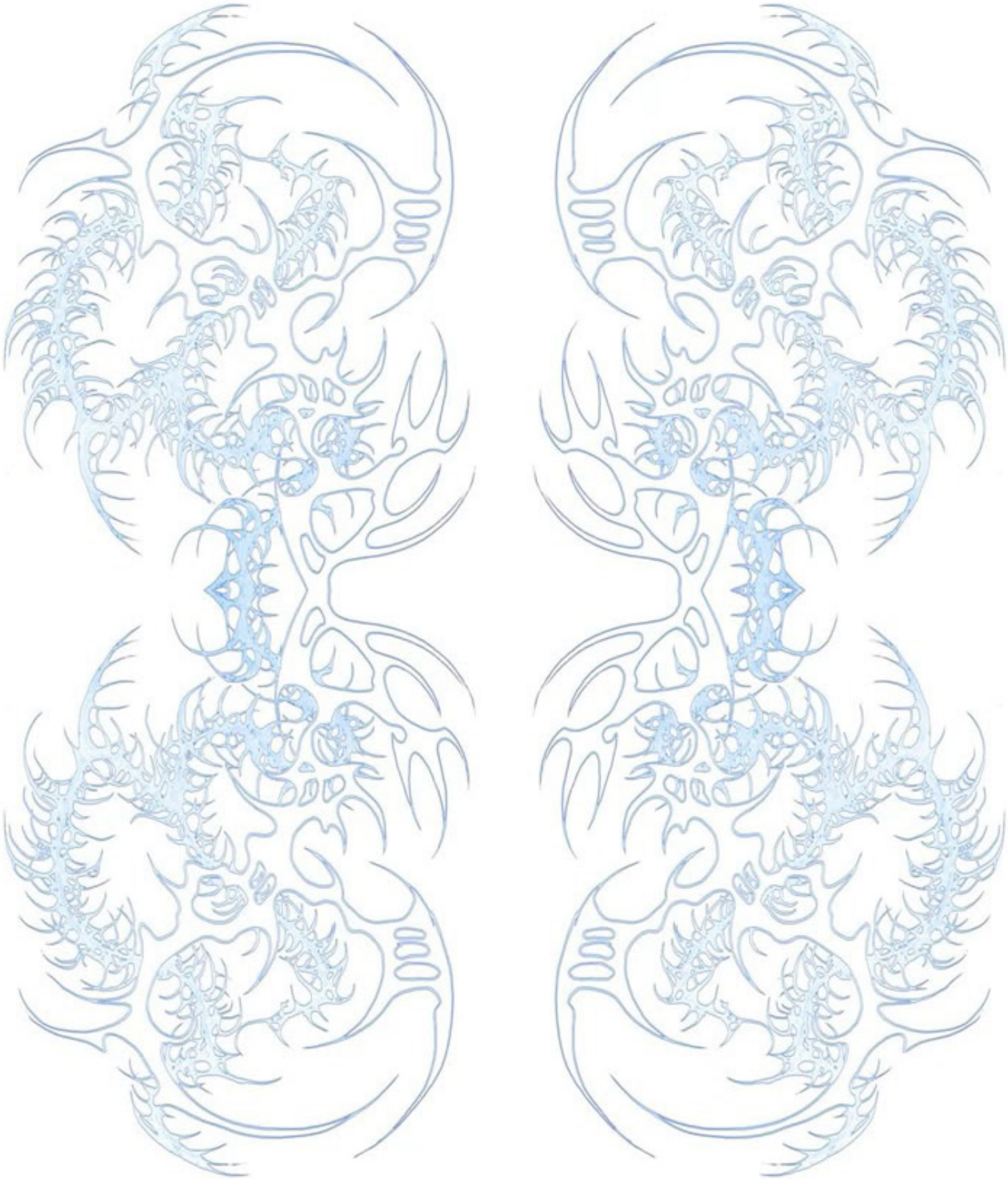


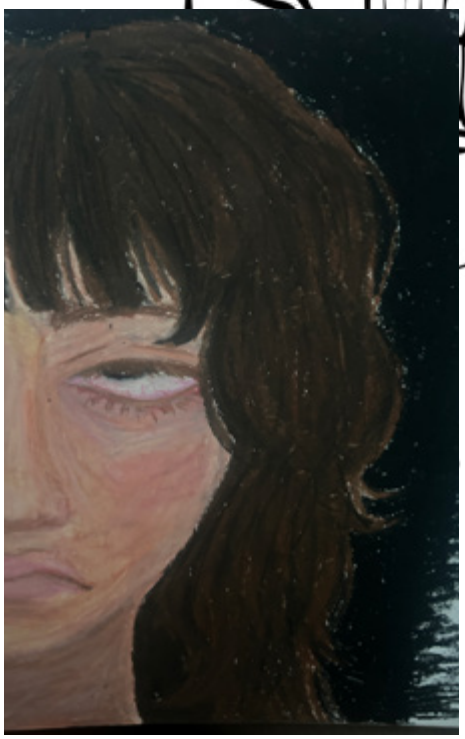
DISCLAIMER: LONESAINT.TTT does NOT go to Mt Pleasant High School and is NOT apart of the RIPPER CHASSIS ARTIST COLLECTIVE. LONESAINT.TTT is the only ARTIST I KNOW who does NOT live in the BAY AREA. At the TIME, I was TRYING the app “PINTREST”, and I assumed LONESAINT.TTT was APPROACHABLE enough based SOLELY off their CAPTIONS. They told ME they were FROM the UK—I also SAW their LINK’S domain region. after EXCHANGING the distinct ASPECTS of our CULTURES, I asked LONESAINT.TTT if I could ADD them to my MAGAZINE.

I FIRST thought that their ART STYLE, cyber signilism, was a FORM OF TRIBAL used in TATTOOS, but my IDEA change after SEEING my brother wear ONE on his LEFT SLEEVE. TUNRS OUT that it was only INSPIRED off tribal, NOT replicated, and it’s been TRANSFORMED by adding CYBERPUNK and GOTHIC imagery.

LONESAINT.TTT works by sketching LINES that SHAPE into BONES and other flowing PATTERNS which BALANCE into the FINAL COHESIVE piece.

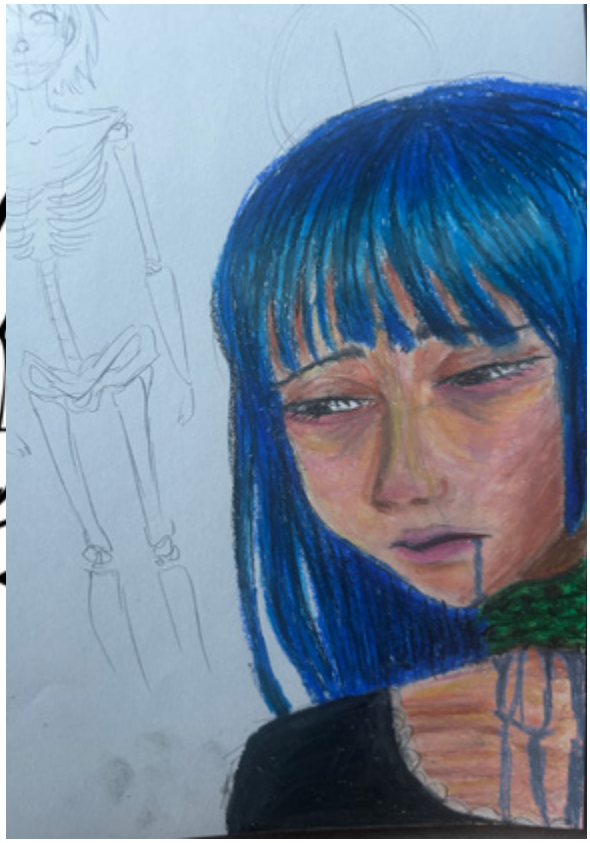
@LONESAINT.TTT on INSTAGRAM & PINTREST





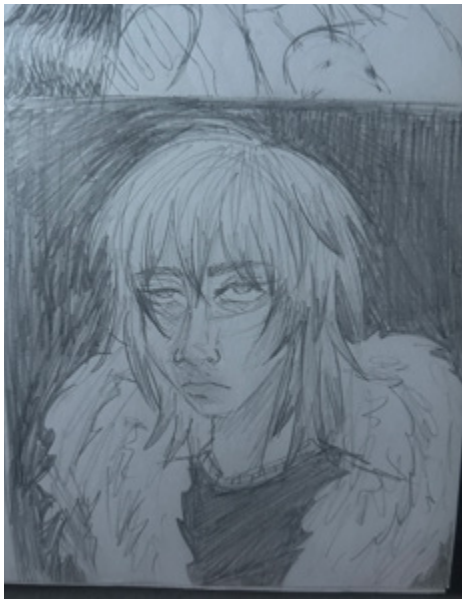
MELANIE

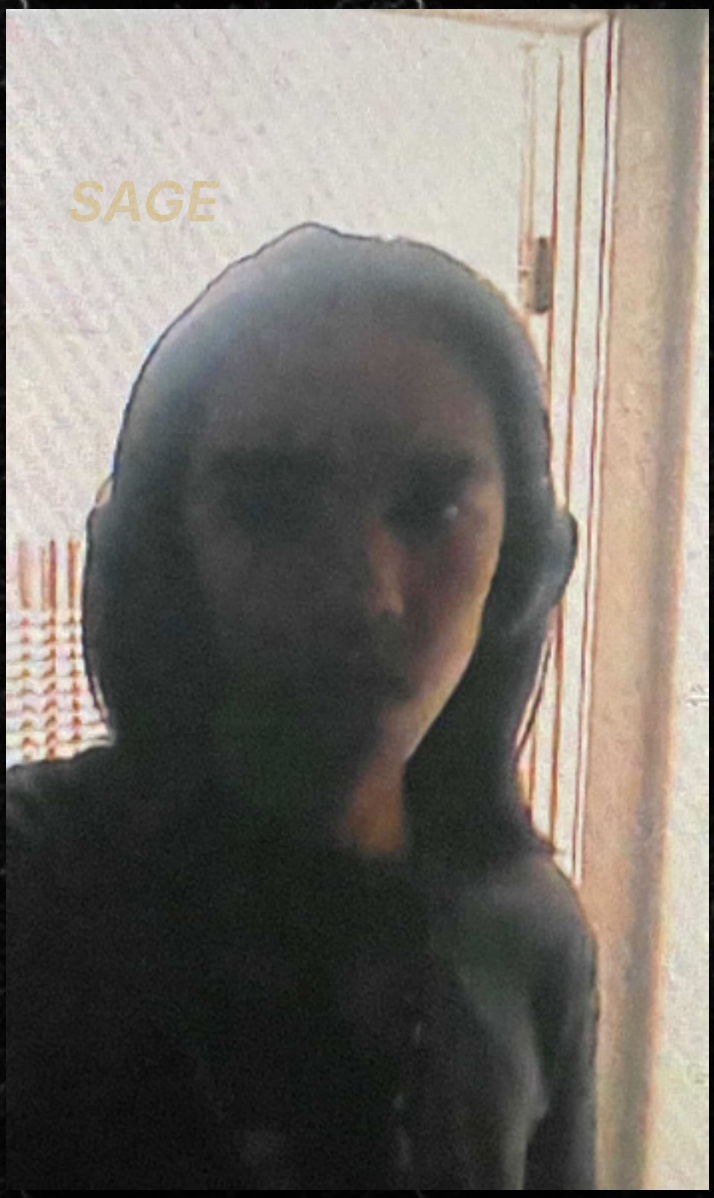
(She deleted her Instagram)



I CAN'T SAY YOU

AAAAHHHHHHH@!!!!!!!!





NOEY: What's your name? And where are you from?

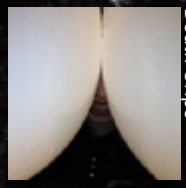
SAGE: My name is Sage and I am from San Jose at Mt Pleasant as most people are here.

N: How did you start making music?

SAGE: This is kind of a funny story but I genuinely think that the first exposure I had to music was like playing Guitar Hero online as a child. I don't know, it's not like I learned music theory from that obviously, but I just enjoyed having so much passion and power put into music and I wanted to keep doing that. Eventually I just—like okay—I didn't really know what I was doing, but I was just putting things together and I thought it worked so I kept at it and that's where I got to today.

N: What would you describe your sound as? Which beats or software do you use?

SAGE: For the longest time I've been using Logic Pro and I guess it's gone toward more of a noise-poppy sound. But I've been trying more industrial things lately. I've been trying to experiment and evolve what I'm doing. I pull inspiration from other bands like Nine Inch Nails, Death Grips, you know, because whenever they perform or make music, they're putting absolutely everything they have out there into their music. That's really awe-inspiring for me—to see someone put so much effort and emotion into music and have zero regrets or embarrassment over it.



N: Yeah, I get with Nine Inch Nails and Death Grips, they have all kinds of loud beats and screamo on there. How do you stray away from them and what makes your music different?

SAGE: Well first of all I can't really scream or anything—I'm not a very loud person—so I think maybe just having the abrasiveness of that music but with a softer, more vulnerable take.

N: Do you make music with other people or share it with them?

SAGE: I haven't really found many people online yet, but I have been thinking about making music online with other people. Okay, so actually, the thing about being Noah here—Ripper Chassis used to be an artist collective, right? Somebody else used to run the club, and at that time it was more like a band, if anything. He used to play keyboard, I used to play bass guitar, and it was pretty good. We picked a lot more punk music and it was enjoyable. To this day I still carry some inspiration from that too.

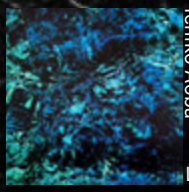
N: I wish that I could go off from only art to expand to as many different types of artists as possible and put them in the magazine. I got the photographers and the artists, but I didn't get the audio quality to it or videography. So what do you think is the role music can play in other types of media, like in video games or movies? How would your music suit that type of format?

SAGE: Every form of art brings an emotion out, and if you make something that makes you feel something genuinely—like if you cry to it or whatever—that's something worth listening to. And that's what adds to any type of media. It doesn't have to be one part of media being more powerful than the other; they obviously work together to create something memorable, and that's how I see it when it comes to

music and media.

N: The A24 movies have it down right now, they had that scene in Talk To Me where they were all playing around, dancing with the cursed hand. What movies do you watch and which genres?

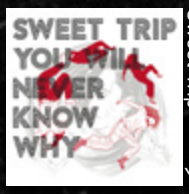
SAGE: My thing is, I actually don't really watch a lot of movies. I genuinely think that I'm completely devoted to music. I mean, I can write out some albums I've been listening to lately. This one album by Ichiko Aoba, "Luminescent Creatures", it was a really calming, beautiful album and it made me feel a lot better and reassured during a time when I was scared of a lot of things.



Ichiko Aoba

Luminescent Creatures

S: There's also You Will Never Know Why by Sweet Trip, which is a very confident album. It has a lot of beautiful moments too. It's happy and carefree, and I respect that. And then there's basically everything that Death Grips makes. I can't put into words how it makes me feel—maybe just more confident and I like the energy.



Sweet Trip

You Will Never Know Why

N: It's like when you're walking down the road with your headphones on, completely separate from the other pedestrians. You feel like you're in the zone.

SAGE: Exactly! And I'm like kicking stuff around and I accidentally kick a dog and I'm like—oh, shoot! Oh my god I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry.

N: Did you for real?

SAGE: No, but I've come close to that so many times.

N: Would you want to go to any shows? The punk scene they got that in San Jose downtown but I'm not sure about digital music.

SAGE: I've heard a lot about raves from Instagram, and those are things I'd like to attend. But more than anything—we never really got to do this when Ripper Chassis the band was still a thing—we always had dreams of actually performing our own music live. That's still something I want to do to this day. I think it's something I can achieve while I'm still here in high school.

N: Any ideas for what you'll create in the future?

SAGE: I have been learning more about game development, and I'm thinking more about music that fits that kind of stuff. Not something that pops out—more like soundtracks, obviously. Just something to have going on in your head while you look for something else. That's beautiful. I like something like that.

N: How does making music feel for you and how is this your creative outlet?

SAGE: Just knowing that this is something I created myself and that I put this all together—even if it's taking from other people's inspiration—I was able to put this together with my own hands and my own mind is a great feeling for me. It makes me feel so pumped.

N: Do you have anything online you could share?

SAGE: I used to have a Bandcamp page but I only had one song on it while I tried to make more music. I did post an album a long time ago in my freshman year. I haven't been able to find it, but it existed somewhere. It was a really good checkpoint to see what I was playing at that time and how my own view on things has changed since then. The music I made at that time wasn't perfect—it was pretty bad—but it was the best music I could make during that time. And again, I had made that myself and I was really happy about that. ■

httpt

Kali Yip

Submission to Downtown Doors
2025 | Advised by Caces Lawrence

Jesuslen Lopez Zambrano

Submission to Downtown Doors
2025 | Advised by Caces Lawrence

Noelle Ramirez

Submission to Downtown Doors
2025 | Advisted by Caces Lawrence

Ms. Henry's Classroom

Teacher Q&A

Mr. Jenson

Hometown: San Jose, Cambrian area.

Park: Doerr Park, near my parents' house where I learned to ride a bike

Restaurant: Bob's Big Boy, lykyk ***[NOT SJ!]***

Hobby: Woodworking custom furniture and gifts

Mr. Lovato

Hometown: East Side San Jose

Park: Alum Rock Park where I spend a lot of time hiking the trails or riding my bike.

Restaurant: Garage on 11th st and San Carlos. It's even been featured on Guy Fieri's Diner, Drive-ins, and Dives show on Food Network.

Hobby: My car, a 60 year old Volvo that I take to car shows and drive in road rallies around CA

Mr. Hartung

Hometown: Jefferson, a small town in Maine

Park: Rose Garden, I used to teach in that neighborhood.

Restaurant: Mendoza's on McKee...the mole con pollo is fabulous.

Hobby: Ice skating & collecting elephants.

Ms. Sisco

Hometown: Saratoga, CA.

Park: I'm too much of an introvert for parks...

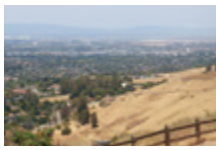
Restaurant: Pho Y #1 is one of my favorites! Something about a bowl of pho is just as comforting as a hug from someone who cares about you.

Hobby: I'm a planner girly! I love using stickers, highlighters, and paper planners to plan my life while being creative.

Ms. Henry

Hometown: San Jose, and I moved to the East Side sixteen years ago. I love it here.

Park: Alum Rock is my favorite park to hike | I take my dog to Ed Levin and Pennitencia Creek all the time ***[NOT SJ!]***.



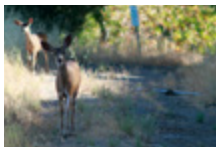
Restaurant: My favorite pizza place is hands down Pizza Maria.

Hobby: I don't know if I'd call it a hobby, but I'm pretty good at fixing things around the house.

Mr. Dang

Hometown: East San Jose!

Park: Alum Rock Park | Vasona Park ***[NOT SJ!]***



Restaurant: Hunan Impressions

Hobby: Planting and collecting solar toys internationally

Mr. Barnes

Hometown: Ridgecrest, CA., a small desert town

Park: Boggini, Groesbeck Hill, and Fowler Creek

Restaurant: Fogo de Chao, Pho La, and Ma's Restaurant for in-house | Back-A-Yard and Lee's Sandwiches for quick bites

Hobby: I build and paint Gundam models.

**During the conversations we had, Mr. Barnes was thoughtful, encouraging, and accepting. I was able to make sense of the identity crisis I experienced at the time—appreciate the support. Mr. Barnes also runs one banger of a US History class, earning gold stars all around.*

Mr. Cavada

Aw man, I can't believe that I forgot to send Mr. Cavada the questions. But you see those posters behind him? Right to the left? He's the man who developed the Multimedia Academy and taught a whole generation of teenagers how to make graphics and films applicable for the industry. And I never would have started my photography or magazines without the Mt Pleasant NYC Trip that he and Mr. Lovato made reality—the grants alone saved me a thousand bucks. And if it weren't for the multimedia academy, I'd probably be in culinary school working towards a balanced diet restaurant!

**Instead of film, the program allowed me to focus on graphic design and magazine design; sometimes I'd even spend three whole periods designing my projects. I deeply appreciate being able to learn in the Multimedia Academy, and for this, I'm developing my career as an interactive editorial designer.*

The Mt Pleasant NYC TRIP, featuring 28 pages of high quality photographs from Manhattan, SoHo, The Bronx, and more. Our guides, Lovato, Cavada, and Arroyo knew the spots from 15+ years of experience, captured from the 23-24 Mt Pleasant tour.

*LIMITED EDITION *PURCHASE* B4 THE STOCK RUNS OUT!!! $24.99

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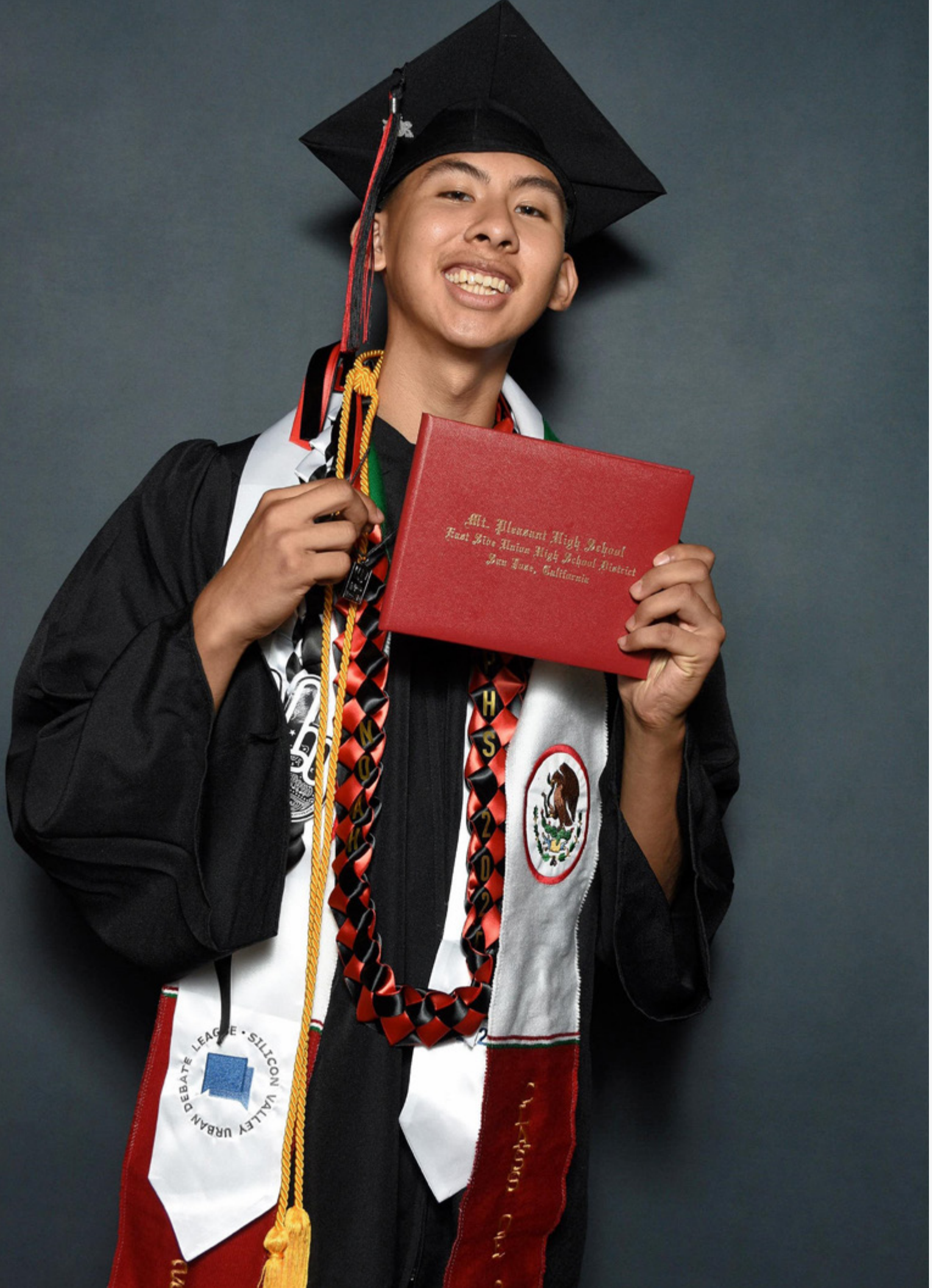
Mt. Pleasant High School
East Side Union High School District
San Jose, California
H S 2 0 2
SILICON VALLEY URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

Appreciate you getting this far.

This is a hell of a long magazine, and it took my entire summer to create. I put off getting a job to make this—credit my family for believing in the process.

I captured the photographs, designed the spreads, wrote the articles, and proofed every single interview at no cost to the readers. So—

I ask that you share this link, to spread the CARDINAL'S BAY as far as you can reach.

Peace.

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